

CAPITAL 'O'

Edinburgh Orienteering Newsletter

CALENDAR

MARCH

1986

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER O

- 17 ESOC Committee. A Lessells' House
- 23 LOC Ranking Badge Event. Holme Fell, Coniston. N Ditchburn 0229-53668. EOD.
- 26 Skating Social - see social diary.
- 28-31 JK East Anglia. Entries closed.
- 30 ELO Event. Whitekirk Hill 67/595817 S Porteous 0620-3482.

APRIL

- 13 GG No8. South Achray NN 519023. J Soluberg 041-946 5293. INT v Clyde Dalswinton. ESOC v Solway in Compass Sport Cup.
- 14 INTERLOPER COMMITTEE
- 20 Tentsmuir Trot St AUOC - no further details available. National Event, Torver Coniston 296949 B Cornish, 0524 63820. CD 17/3/86 £3/£1.50.
- 23 Hash Run. Blackford Pond at 7pm. Eddie Harvey 447-3671. Meal afterwards at Loon Fung. Contact Eddie if you want to have a meal by 10/4/86
- 30 Edinburgh Summer 'O'. Cramond. C Howie 667-8287.

MAY

- 4 Edinburgh 1/2 Marathon. Clyde Badge Event (R). Loch Ard NN492003. D Somerville 041-942 4392. CD 28/4/86 some EOD.
- 7 Edinburgh Summer 'O'. Pentlands (Hillend). Bob Cherry.
- 11 Roxburgh Reivers local event. Cardrona 73/293384. L Alexander 31 Bleachfield Road, Selkirk.
- 14 Edinburgh Summer 'O'. Dalkeith. David Lane 228-2379.
- 18 FVO Badge (R) Birnam NO 013404. H Astbury 08774 681. CD 4/5/86.
- 21 Edinburgh Summer 'O'. Bonaly. M Marshall 449-5716.
- 22 INTERLOPER AGM
- Roxburgh Reivers local event. Bowhunt Kelso 74/729288. D Jones 05783 218.
- 24 BOC warm-up Darnaway. D Ritchie 0343-843334.
- 25 British Champs. Achilty, Contin, Nr Inverness. J Eades 03302 3258. CD 1/4/86
- 26 BOC Badge - Achilty.
- 28 Edinburgh Summer 'O'. Colinton Dell. Bob Cherry.

JUNE

- 4 Edinburgh Summer 'O'. Holyrood. A Lessells
- 7 Scottish Championship W/E. Mabie South. J Clenaghan 0848 30381. CD 2/5/86.
- 11 Edinburgh Summer 'O'. Calderwood. J Biggar.
- 18 Edinburgh Summer 'O'. Bonaly. C Howie.

Edinburgh Summer 'O' are being co-ordinated by Charles Howie. The aim is to attract newcomers as well as offering local events for more seasoned orienteers. The last event, at Bonaly, is to finish with a B-B-Q.

This is an ideal series to use as an introduction to 'O' for friends/spouse/sibling/colleague/offspring.

All events will have white, orange and green courses. Cost 40p. Starts 6 - 7pm. Registration from 5.30pm.

ESOC PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Quite a busy last couple of months. We have drawn the might of Solway (all 214 of them) in the CompassSport Cup, but Davids can slay Goliaths and as the ESOC junior section is now much stronger, I hope we can reverse the 1983 result at Dean Park, Kilmarnock when Solway won. The venue is Gy-G 6 at Dalswinton on 13th April (details elsewhere). It's a day without any fell races, but it's a day when the junior results are probably more important than the seniors, so I hope everyone will attend - also it looks a suitable venue to baptise our new club tent, if it hasn't already been used. On Friday, 7/8/87 we will be on the same side as Solway, manning the barricades at Day 5, Highland '87, with Roxburgh also helping us. Each day has been asked to provide 2 planners, 2 organizers and 2 controllers, and although negotiations are still at an early stage, any volunteers for co-organizers or co-controllers posts would be most welcome. Mapping at Glentress now apportioned, but the good start we made has been somewhat knocked on the head by the February snows. Bridget has kindly offered to draw the map (I see the event is now one of the 8 nominated Scottish ranking events). Next, I hope we can start remapping the Pentlands, once the snow has melted - offers of help with the mapping to Bridget or Meryl please. Anyone fancy doing the final drawing? I must confess I've enjoyed my sno O' in Jan/Feb - how about a combined WINTER LONG-O versus SKI-O on the 2 Pentlands maps next February? (Steve Terry did a solo NIGHT SKI-O last Wednesday on the Pentlands). Talking of unusual combinations what about the World's First Orienteering Triathlon/Quadrathlon from Penicuik to Fife! (Ski-O on Pentlands to Hillend, Street-O & Cycle-O to Leith and Water-O (dinghies, surfboards) to Fife (at night?))

Finally, to anyone wanting to pursue a career in literature, may I suggest that your first prerequisite should be to engage Ben as your literary agent. He won't charge any commission but he will ensure world-wide publicity for any article you write (he might even print this!). Seriously though, to those of you who haven't heard and who wondered what the devil I was playing at, in repeating my comments on Tayside '85 in the Feb CompassSport 2 months after the issue had been dead and buried at the ESOC AGM, the answer is that the article was lifted from Capital O' without my or Ben's permission or knowledge. (Big Brother is watching and reading you.) I was also amused to see that SCORE (who did acknowledge the source) used Bill's poem in the vernacular for the 1985 Burns Night in the Feb 1986 SCORE. Which all goes to show what an excellent job Charlie and Ben are doing for this newsletter.

Cheery O

Ian Jackson

Next Copy Date: 3 May 1986

1986 Scottish Hill Runners Calendar is available from Tiso, Rose Street, with talk of Pentlands Skyline Race on 6 April. 16 miles and 6,000ft - sounds good.

PLEASE all you excellent typists out there, don't forget we need only 5" columns to fit Capital 'O's format.

The Story Behind the Newsletter

Perhaps some of you readers out there may have at some point wondered just what strange series of events results in your "Capital O" dropping through your letter box (or being handed to you). Probably not, but here's the story anyway, at least from the Interlopers side of things.

The newsletter comes out every couple of months, so things happen in roughly a nine week cycle. As soon as one newsletter is finished and the odds and ends tidied up, the next two month cycle starts, though for the first seven weeks or so nothing actually happens. At the start of the eighth week I realise another "Capital O" is due soon, usually after a prompt from the ESOC editor. We take it in turns to actually compile the newsletter (this is Ben's turn) so the first job is to collect together all the stuff that is to go in, batter it into a useable shape, and pass it on to the compiling editor.

To return to the start of the eighth week, I fight my way through the mountains of articles, illustrations, letters etc. that have been sent in over the preceding weeks and try to select what is suitable for printing. This is not strictly true, I actually start 'phoning people or seeing people and begging for anything that can be published, and meet with almost total failure, so start working out what I can write myself. I then spend a couple of evenings typing anything I have laid hands on into the computer at work, which as you see has a nice word processor and posh printer. Mind you, if any articles were already typed, it would save a lot of hassle. N.E.Thicket's article is always the last to arrive, anonymously delivered late at night.

The stuff is printed out in about 5 inch wide columns and the compiling editor gets a great heap of it to cut up and stick onto A3 sheets. In my experience these all-important "laying out" sessions tend to happen late at night and in a great rush; this is when the fancy title appears and what goes on what page is decided, usually simply by what fits where. The compiling editor also makes up the calendar. Once everything is stuck together the originals are photocopied down to A4 size, copies are passed back to the other editor, and that's the first stage completed.

All this takes a week or so, and the next stage is converting one "Capital O" into enough to go round the whole club. The photocopier is again the tool; as it's over 500 copies I can't just slip it in machine at work, so had a couple done commercially, which is a bit expensive, then Pete Couldery offered to do the last couple a lot cheaper. These copies all then come back to me for the last stage, distribution.

Distribution starts with lots of stapling, folding, adding any extras, and enveloping. Sticky labels courtesy Ken Ovens save a lot of address writing, which only leaves getting the finished product out to the waiting public. The main constraint here is finance, so the aim is to deliver as much as possible by hand. Out of town folk have to rely on the Post Office for delivery, but most of Edinburgh is covered by a dedicated band of delivery people who get a bit extra training by running round delivering in their area.

Delivery of the last couple of newsletters has been quite well organised after a few teething troubles on my first two attempts. There's seven bundles to make up : five delivery rounds, one to post, and one "pass on when I see them" - people I think I might see often have to wait until I see them before they get their newsletter! As well as the "out of town" folk the post bundle includes copies for "Score", "CompassSport", and New England OC in the States, plus a few awkward addresses: Malcolm Murray lives just too far out of the way, and I haven't yet been able to find the Finlays (does 184 Granton Road really exist?) or Helen Bruce (sorry, not on my map!). We have some other troublesome customers: the Squires, Alan Wilson, and the Simpsons all live in inconvenient places, but we struggle by! Ken Ovens looks after the Corstorphine area, and over to Cramond; John Mitchell covers the south-west part of town, from Haymarket round through Morningside to the Meadows; Scott Balfour delivers round Fairmilehead and Liberton School; and Andy Spenceley and Hilary Fairlie deal with the rest of the south-east part of town. That just leaves the north side, which is left to me - New Town, Inverlieth, Stockbridge, Ravelston etc. So now you know who to blame when your newsletter doesn't arrive!

Doing the deliveries always makes for an interesting run - it's a bit like a score event, with plenty route choice, though I can manage without a map by now! I have got one bone to pick: why do so many of you live at the top of lots of stairs? Fiona Craddock is probably the worst offender, particularly now Hilary and Andy are moving, but there seem to be plenty other orienteers who have an attraction to high places.

So that's the "Capital O" story; once I've got

rid of them all I can hibernate for another seven weeks, or get on with some orienteering. I'd again like to thank all the other folk that help with the newsletter and make my job easier, and I'll also try another appeal for contributions - keep sending them in!

Charlie Walton

****NEXT NEWSLETTER**** : Due out before the AGM, so get stuff to Charlie by the end of April.

CAPITAL 'O' EDITORS

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031-225 5762

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031-668 3169



ESOC'ers who do not want to merge with Interlopers hiding in the forest!

"Editorial comment"

Those of you that read "Score" and "CompassSport" will know that they sometimes contain articles borrowed from "Capital O". Each time a new "Capital O" comes out we send copies to the editors of both "Score" and "CompassSport", and up till now it has been understood that anything could be taken out and reproduced for a wider readership.

Recently, however, the "Tayside" article by Ian Jackson has caused a bit of a problem in ESOC circles - the trouble being that the article was never actually meant to be in "Capital O" in the first place. Ian included a number of controversial points intended for discussion and not meant for general circulation; he was somewhat embarrassed when the article sneaked into "Capital O", and even more so when it showed up in "CompassSport".

The result is that ESOC have, I hear, decided that in future "CompassSport" will have to obtain permission before reproducing articles from this newsletter. I feel that this is a daft step in the wrong direction. I think that we should encourage the other publications to use our material, and we should be pleased to see bits from "Capital O" spread to a wider audience. Ian's article may have been an unfortunate mistake, but I think if something is fit for "Capital O", then the "Score" and "CompassSport" editors should be free to use it if they like. Problems should be sorted out at this end - if there is disagreement over editorial policy, perhaps it could be discussed by the club committees, or write to the editor on the back of a five pound note.

As Interlopers editor I am happy to include almost anything given to me FOR THE NEWSLETTER. I don't even edit much, as I hope you notice from the spelling mistakes! The club newsletter should be a free platform where members can say what they like, and I encourage the "Score" and "CompassSport" editors to take what they can from it. That's my view; any comments on this or any other topic gratefully received - you never know, they might make headline news all over the world!

Charlie Walton

ESOC RELAY TEAMS

The British Relay Champs are in the Forest of Dean on May 4th '86. If you want partners to form a team let me know - I will not be going but will be happy to put in an entry.

The closing date is 31/3/86 but you'll need to let me know (at best) a week before that.

The Scottish Relays are on June 8th '86 at the Hills, Dumfries. The team entry must be in by 2/5/86. Please let me know if you'd like a run by 15/4/86. The Scottish Relays are a lot of fun - I hope we shall have, at least, 10 teams out on the day.

John Morris

COMPASS SPORT CUP

We make our debut in the Compass Sport Cup this year in the second round against Solway on April 13th at Dalswinton in the Galloway Gallophen.

They have lots of juniors; we have more seniors. Anything could happen in this match - with a strong turnout we have a real chance of going through to the 3rd round.

Dalswinton is a fine forest and should provide some excellent courses. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there if you can possibly make it. (Remember that what counts in this competition is not a few individual scores but depth - lots of quietly competent finishers crossing the line.) Be there, we need you!

John Morris

INTERLOPERS NEWS

Secretary's Notes

from Andy Spenceley

Several new members have joined since the last newsletter - welcome to the club. The new members are:

Gail Balfour (W10), daughter of (and address as) a famous Interloper

Katherine Dick (W35), who has moved from the Stirling area to: 16 Melville Terrace,
Edinburgh EH9 1LT
(031-667-1212)

Mark Welsh (M10), of 15 Lamberton Court, Pencaitland, East Lothian (5-340032) - who is the nephew of another member, Jackie Robinson

Northcott family (David M21 and Sheila W21), more top flat residents at 80 Harrison Gardens,
Edinburgh EH11 1SB
(031-337-6317)

This year we have entered the CompassSport Cup again but to make a change we have not been drawn against Forth Valley but have in fact got a bye to the second round where we will compete against Clydeside. Clydeside were the best Scottish club last year so we will need everybody out to try and beat them. The event will probably take place on Sunday the 13th April - please keep that date free. We will especially need a good turnout of M/W17s and under and M/W40s and older in order to get to the next round.

Another date to keep free is 6th October when we will need a lot of volunteers to help at the badge event at Drummond Hill. We still need half an organiser to help Fiona Craddock. Also, mark 22nd May in your diary as this is the club A.G.M. (Annual General Meeting) and annual meal. Please turn out to make your opinion known on Bob Cherry's controversial proposals (see elsewhere). We will also be looking for next years officials.

Next year will be the Highland '87 six day event based near Inverness. Already the organisation is in full swing. We are organising Day 6 along with Clydeside and AROS and are looking for 2 controllers, 2 organisers and 2 planners by 15th April so please contact me immediately if you are interested.

As mentioned in the last newsletter there are several relays in the near future, these being the British on 4th May, the Scottish on 7th June and the Harvester (7 person overnight) further ahead in September. Please tell me if you want to run in a relay team so I can enter enough teams. Whatever standard you are I can organise a team for you provided you tell me before entries close.

If any members intend to visit America it may be of interest to know that we are on the mailing list of New England Orienteering Club and receive their magazine "NEOC Times", which makes interesting reading and gives contact addresses. I will lend copies to anyone interested.

Finally to all procrastinators, please renew your membership or this will be the last newsletter you receive!

Andy

Latest COMPASSSPORT CUP news : it looks like our match may well be held at South Achray (in the Trossachs) on 13th April. This is a Glasgow Gallophen event that is being run by Clydeside, but we'll try and ensure fair play. We'll be scraping together enough transport to provide for everyone that wants to go, so contact Bob Cherry or Andy Spenceley if you need a lift.

FREE OFFER !!! . . . courtesy Ovens enterprises . . .

The snow may be going but the mud is back, so how about some flashy shoes to help you round the course? Ken Ovens has an unwanted (they cut his feet up) but barely used pair of size 42 red and blue Silva O-shoes, and is looking for a good home for them. Free to first taker - contact Ken (031-334-4162).

January's big event in the Interlopers calendar was undoubtedly the Burns Supper, which offered not only the chance to prove you didn't know how to Scottish country dance, but also the sight of Scott Balfour's knees! Watch out for the new album, "Len Milarski Sings". We hear that a good time was had by one and all, and that next year's will be even better. The main social outing in February was the trip to a snowy Hillend, and a reasonable turnout of Interlopers were able to witness Mike Burton falling over. Mike returned recently from spending Christmas in Hawaii, it's a tough life these astronauts lead.

Earlier on in February there had been another snowy event, the INT LOL at Beecraigs. Nearly 200 competitors turned up for a very pleasant day in the forest, though the small dedicated band of helpers mostly got very cold. The event had one or two problems, particularly an injury to the would-be controller, Fiona Hendrie, but Scott Balfour stepped in as a late replacement - all this while the planner was away living it up in the French Alps. We wish Fiona a speedy recovery. On the day all went without a hitch (though a few more bodies to help would have been useful) with the last competitor back by 2:45 and everything cleared up by about half past three. The planner says the snow made Beecraigs a much nicer place than in the horizontal sleet encountered on previous visits, and it also allowed possibly the first ski-orienteeing at a Lothian O League. The other big advantage was that it covered some of the bits where the map doesn't quite match the ground!

We have also heard that the event actually made a profit! With this addition to the funds, along with cash from the 6 day event which has now arrived, and mapping grants for Ewe's Hill and Archerfield, we understand that Interlopers are solvent again! This rare occurrence probably won't last long, but this might be the chance to bully the committee into subsidising relay entries or doing something else to benefit the membership.

The first weekend in March saw the return of the badge event in Scotland with the event at Mabie. A number of Interlopers spent the weekend in Galloway, spending the saturday reminding themselves how to orienteer at a training day organised for the Scottish Squad and the British Squad Ladies. Lorna Boyd, Christine Whalley, Mike Burton, Pakit Hyman, Charlie Walton and Barry Woodfine were all involved, along with Graham McIntyre who runs the Scottish Squad. The sunday

turned out to be a beautiful sunny day and running at Mabie was a real pleasure, with a fair turnout of Capital orienteers. Honours in W21 went to Christine (maybe this training lark does do some good), while best placed Interloper in M21 was Pete Couldery (maybe it doesn't - though we hear Pete had been getting some practice in down south).

There are some more new houses and cars to add to the list in the last newsletter. Hilary Fairlie and Andy Spenceley have got a new flat which must be all of a hundred metres from their old abode - they must like that part of town. We hear they are planning a moving party, so contact them if you fancy shifting some furniture and beer. Speaking of beer, the hill racing season gets under way soon. There were a few Interlopers in the Carnethy race last month, but perhaps the less said the better; an event to watch out for, though, is the Scottish Island Peaks race (sailing and running up hills) in which a team of Bob Cherry (plus family), Andy Spenceley, and Pete Couldery is taking on all challengers. And to return to the new cars, Bob Cherry is again the man to look out for: will a Polo stand up to the treatment like the Volvo (almost) did? And if you're down in Borderliners country, watch out for a shiny red escort with Mr Lamont at the wheel.

N.E.Thicket

New Address.....Andy Spenceley and Hilary Fairlie will be moving, on 21st March, to :

(2FR) 26 Rankeillor Street,
Edinburgh EH8 9HY
(031-668-2147)

SKI-ORIENTEERING

"Some nuts ski-ing" was one of the kinder comments overhead as I skied around the orange route at the last 'O' League event. Notwithstanding the fact that the course wasn't planned for ski-ing, I did manage to do the whole course on skis. Crossing over some of the fallen trees was interesting but when it came to crossing ditches or marshy areas well...

My introduction to ski-orienteeing was on a New Year's Day in Central Norway. It was a bright sunny morning with a temperature of -25°C and I had had a mere four hours sleep. With the wee man with hammers beating agreement, I cursed my stupidity in competing in an event which was clearly designed for better skiers and better orienteers. The Danish Ski-O Team looked professional in matching gear and maps mounted on revolving, collapsable chest tables. I eventually settled the map carrying problem by shoving it down my trousers!

This was a score event and I slunk into the back row at the start. Most of us set off on a long climb in search of the points. The seemingly turbo-charged Norwegians had vanished and I was left to my own devices. At least when the ski tracks converge you know you must be inside the circle! A few good controls and I'm really enjoying this, even the men with hammers seem satisfied. The sense of isolation is much greater here than in a Scottish forest, where you seem cushioned by the trees. Here in the Norwegian winter at 1,300m you are on the frontier of inhabitable terrain. I pause to check that my spare clothing and whistle are still around me.

After ten days in the area I feel I know the terrain and opt for a short cut, making my own track through the trees and deep snow - a mistake. My progress now resembles the efforts of a large crab with all limbs thrashing about in different directions. Aware of the passing time on a rapid descent through and round the trees I get wiped out, grabbed by a greedy pinetree. One of my poles is now bent with no basket on its end. A worry for getting home and a possible cause for penalty points!

A very steep and twisting descent down the "S's" with quite a reputation for pile-ups had to be taken at speed if I am to return in time.

Hurting down, I emerge from the larc looking like the Wild Man of Borneo and cross the line with seconds to spare.

Other ski-orienteeing events have followed but haven't been so memorable. It is a pity we don't have suitable conditions very often, but at least the occasional hint is available.

David Lane

Scottish 'O' Scene

In this month's copy of Score, SOA published the result of their membership survey. Solway are the largest with 215 members - half of whom are club only members (are they allowed to compete in the Compass Sport Cup?)

The most surprising club is Roxburgh Reivers who only have 9 BOF members but still managed in 1985 a new map, a Badge Event, the Scottish School Champs and a LOL plus numerous local events. It would appear that putting on events does little for membership - wonder what it does for the bank balance? Perhaps if they had helped out at Tayside '85 they would not have any members at all now. Elsewhere in Score is a note of the RR committee. There are eight members - wonder who the lucky chap is?.

Ben Bate

THE HOWIE FILE

The work load which the Scottish 6 Day imposes on orienteers has been discussed a great deal in the columns of Capital 'O' in the last few months. Charles Howie (ex Forth Valley) was camp site manager for Tayside '85 and has first hand knowledge of the work involved and also ideas on how the Scottish 6 Day (S6D) can survive without becoming too burdensome. Capital 'O' went to talk to him.

Cap 'O' - Towards the end of Tayside '85 there was talk about the need for a Development Officer shared between the S6D and SOA. Do you think this is a good idea?

Charles - Although it seems sensible to employ someone full time to develop orienteering in Scotland, I don't see how this job can be merged with the full-time official for the S6D.

Cap 'O' - Why not?

Charles - Well the SOA Development Officer would be involved with things like -

- a) organising courses for club coaches;
- b) negotiating access to new areas;
- c) promoting 'O' as part of the education syllabus;
- d) seeking sponsorship;
- e) organising national training of juniors and seniors.

and the full-time S6D person would be involved with the following -

- a) liaison with Council and other officials eg Environmental Health, Police, Fire, Water, Tourism etc.;
- b) Specifying requirements for contracts and organising same in areas such as showers, toilets, electricity, fences, photocopier, 'phones etc.;
- c) organising car parking, campsite, village halls;
- d) Preparing programme.

Now as I see it, these jobs are in two separate areas of the sport and require different skills.

Cap 'O' - Can you explain that more fully?

Charles - Yes, SOA will need someone with orienteering, self organisation and public relations skills probably a younger person - an orienteering Development Officer (ODO).

The 6 Day however, needs someone with experience in dealing with officialdom and confidence in handling a budget of say £15,000 - an Executive Officer (EO) who can execute, efficiently, the decisions taken by the 6 Day committee. Unless the role is expanded to cover the technical co-ordination of mapping and course planning, no orienteering experience is needed.

Cap 'O' - The appointment of a Development Officer depends on BOF, can an Executive Officer be appointed and paid for by S6D?

Charles - Yes, I think so. It would be cheaper to hire an EO who already lives in the area (eg Highlands) and it need not be a permanent position.

Cap 'O' - For how long would the EO need to be employed?

Charles - I have no record of the time I spent but a rough breakdown of the requirement would be something like:

Year before S6D from Aug-Dec	25 days
Year of S6D - Jan	5 days
Feb	5 days
Mar	10 days
Apr	10 days
May	12 days
June	12 days
July	16 days
= 70 days	

TOTAL IS 95 DAYS

Cap 'O' - How much would this cost?

Charles - Given a rate of £40 per day (equiv to £10,000 per annum) £40 x 95 = £3,800 say £4,000.

Cap 'O' - Where would the money come from?

Charles - From the S6D - mainly late entry fees. Seniors making late entries paid £30 for 6 Days at Tayside. 134 would pay for the EO. Tayside raised 11% of all fees in the last two months and due to the high fixed costs of the S6D, half of the profits came in that period.

Cap 'O' - So you would want to expand the S6D to pay for the EO?

Charles - Yes, the last S6D could have afforded an EO and given that orienteers will pay a premium for a late entry facility, I would advocate:

- a) good advertising throughout Europe;
- b) no ceiling on the number of entries;
- c) no final entry date.

Cap 'O' - Do you see any of other areas where the work load could be spread?

Charles - Yes there are a number of other things which should be done:

- a) buy assistance from school and youth groups;
- b) accept help from English orienteers;
- c) pay for a service rather than use a volunteer (eg computer Tayside '85);
- d) use paid mappers and have the maps ready early to help with planning.

The Scandinavians must have evolved along these lines. We are only re-inventing the wheel.

Cap 'O' - What sort of person would the S6D EO be?

Charles - Age 35+, perhaps an early retiree. Live in the 6 Day area and be familiar with the local business set up and have experience of the local authorities. The EO would have to drive, type, be able to manage a £15,000 budget and have a working knowledge of orienteering.

SOCIAL DIARY

March

There's the skating night at Murrayfield Ice Rink on Wednesday 26th March (meet in the foyer, 7:30pm).

April 23 Hash Run Eddie Harvey see page I

May Social to be organised by INT
Details Fiona Craddock 343 1828

June Nostalgia 'O' Event. Stuart Edgar 440-4123. Celebrating ESOC's 21st birthday. B-B-Q and Buffet at the Carmichael Estate. Date from Stuart later.

July Organised by INT

August Car Rally, 1 day event. Len Milarski (Penicuik) 71-75355.

Details of the Interlopers AGM and the Meal afterwards will be in the next Capital O Keep the 22/5/86 Thu free

The president's new crampons.

Outside the cottage there was a hard frost but seated in front of a roaring fire with a wee nightcap, it didn't take much to persuade Ian that his new crampons should be tested in some snow gully on Beinn Bhann. After a scan at the guide book, Easy gully seemed to fit our needs so the new toy was unwrapped and bits and pieces, mostly sharp, were emptied onto the floor.

Assembling crampons can be a devilish job at the best of times but when the nut revolves with the screw and the middle ratchet won't stay in place then they become impossible. There were too many studs for the straps and someone

managed to fit a strap on the wrong side. Trying them out on the axminster carpet doesn't do much for the pile either. Eventually on the drive to Tornapress the following morning, Ian was happy that the last screw was in place and they would go well with his boots.

Are there any finer group of corries than those in Beinn Bhann as each seems to rival the others in grandeur? I hesitate to sing their praises too much for fear of increasing their popularity but they are definitely worth a visit. Walking into Coire na Feola is like walking into a cathedral as the rock walls of the coire surround you and buttresses soar skywards. Several routes offered themselves but in deference to the new crampons and their owner, easy gully on the left was to take us to the top.

Ian stopped talking about the stratigraphic niceties of the local torridonian sandstone long enough to fit the crampons in earnest for the first time. For a new budding alpinist, perhaps the biggest sin, besides tripping over, is to puncture an artery in the leg and leave blood all down the gully. However no such accidents happened and we progressed slowly upwards. Judging by the length of Ian's ice axe which E. Whymper could have used on the Matterhorn, he could have demolished the cornice with it from half way down the gully!

Not once did Ian look down the long snow slope to the corrie floor, significant in that vertigo sometimes bothers him. One of the rewards of climbing is overcoming fear in oneself and judging by the smile at the top of the gully, Ian was half way there.

We continued through deep snow and a near white out to the top of the hill from where we could peer over the edge into Coire na Poite and get a good view of Mad Hatter's gully which is a mere grade 4/5. It looked dark and evil, its upper slopes choked with ice and a swirling mist. Muttering something about getting itchy crampons, Ian wandered off in the opposite direction.

In the S/C guide for the Northern Highlands, the late Tom Patey makes some generous comments about the climbing potential in both Coire na Poite and its neighbour Coire an Fhamhair. The latter coire has impressive cliffs, cut by two vertical faults of awesome steepness.

Since we had reverted to tourists for the day we satisfied ourselves with some photographs and found time to gaze into the most northern coire, Toll a'Bhein. This was remote and silent like some lost world from the pages of Conan Doyle; was that a mammoth grazing by the lochan side or just a trick of the light?

As the night and the snow returned, we glissaded into Coire an Fhamhair, dodging the boulders and stumbled by torchlight down to the shore of loch Kishorn; the oil rig yard seemed the most suitable place to get the crampons resharpened.

Ambition getting the better of us, two days later, we set off up the Coire Dubh path between Bein Eighe and Liathach traversing into Coire na Caime to do the Northern Pinnacles. The deep snow, the overcast sky and bitter east wind all heightened the feeling of apprehension that this was unexplored territory for either of us. During a refuelling stop at the coire entrance we could admire the pinnacles of Am Fasarinean on the main ridge and survey the route up Meall Dearg. "I would never have thought of going up that way," was Ian's disarming remark as I pointed out a rising snow ramp on the north west side.

Roping up at the bottom meant we would have to progress together, each other's moves influenced by the pace and capabilities of the other. This was not a ridge on which to lose your way or become separated. The snow was deep and varied in consistency that it had to be tested on the steeper slopes which fell away to our right. Turn left at the top of the ramp we meandered up to the main ridge around numerous crags plastered with snow. The top of Meall Dearg afforded us dizzy views into Coire na Caime and across to the main ridge. Fortunately, visibility was reasonable and we could see the pinnacles ahead, alpine in character, black and white against a grey sky. It was difficult to judge distance in the light and remembering the advice from the guide book that they could be avoided on the right, we dropped carefully into the first gap. It was too late to turn back.

Snow suffocated the rocks and was piled deep in every crevice as we stepped boldly across the gully which fell to our left into Coireag Cham, the inner coire. The feeling of exposure now

grew tangible and it became prudent to avoid the left hand drop, the occasional word being sufficient to confirm that we were still together. Each succeeding pinnacle presented a new problem. The second involved a short climb in a narrow corner, packed with snow and then a pull up with the ice axe to gain the top. Some blocks had to be tested before trusting them and the adze was continually used to scrape snow from the rocks.

Looking west past Beinn Alligin, outlined like some skeletal galleon on a black sea, we could see the clouds cueing up over the sound of Raasay and darkness came with them, creeping

around the foot of Meall Dearg and up the ridge behind us. The spindrift danced wildly around as our cramponed boots gripped the snowy crust on the last pinnacle. There across the gap was the summit of Mullach an Rathain, our goal for so long and now within a rope's distance.

With a backward glance down the arête to picture what our efforts had gained we crunched our way up the final slope. The trailing rope traced patterns in the snow and the wind curved it out horizontally. Congratulations were in order for our minor epic but we had reached the top just in time. Rather than let us dwell on present victories the weather reminded us forcefully that we still had to vacate the mountain.

Delaying long enough for some iced tea and to package the rope, we descended down the south ridge in a raging blizzard and into the gloom of Glen Torridon. The pinnacles which had occupied our attention for so long were now just a memory, blown away by the cold east wind.

Back once more, toasting ourselves beside the fire with the amber liquid, Ian looked across and enquired, "well, where to tomorrow?" A steely rattle came from a box in the corner of the living room; the crampons were listening.

Eddie Harvey.



Charlie delivering Capital O

What organisation! Not only did WFO book a full moon and a clear frosty night for their event, they also arranged for extra illumination from Mossmorran, and for a careful distribution of snow patches to emphasise relief. What they did for visibility, they overdid for runnability - they froze the boggy bits and cropped the grass, but for competitors without skates the sheets of ice were too much, as Fiona Hendrie's knee will testify, and I suspect, more than one backside at the road junction on the 7th leg of the long course.

Having ensured low friction courses WFO turned to competitor comfort at start and finish. When did you last attend an event where registration, map corrections, toilets, pre-start, start, master maps, finish and results were all located in a centrally heated Visitor Centre? When did you ever sit at a table to copy the master map? How often have you moved directly from the finish to a cafe to claim hot soup and join family and fellow competitors? The next rain lashed, muddy pig farm will be hard to take.

From this you will gather that, apart from the hazard that the icy patches presented, the event was highly enjoyable and very different. I left puzzled by two things: why are night events such a rarity and why was this event so poorly attended? Against these thoughts I left convinced of two things: that the event made good use of an area which, in daylight, would not be very challenging and that night orienteering is good technique training.

The 'tunnel vision' created by the darkness either side of the head torch beam necessitated more rough and fine compass work than visual and the loss of perspective ahead often made pacing desirable. In the relative darkness, I reckoned that control sites were little harder to find than attack points, so I overlooked the latter on most legs in favour of aiming off slightly. The result was that in the 'red' phase of each leg, I was pacing cautiously on a bearing closely in touch with the map, aware of every slope and shadow around me. In daylight I would have rushed in with sloppy or non-existent technique. I would have enjoyed a daylight run around Lochore but it would have done nothing for my orienteering.

There were 3 courses: an 'easy' one of 1.8k with a winning time of 19.30, a 'medium' one of 3.2k, won in 30.47 with S Hain (M15 ESOC) 2nd in 33.24 and a 'hard' course of 6.1k won by D Carmichael (M35 ESOC) in 48.41 with A Lessells (M35 ESOC) 2nd in 51.36. Other ESOC performances were as follows: C Neill (M13) 6th, R Bryce (M13) 10th, F R Leask 13th (all medium). T Carmichael (W35) 8th, R Dalitz (M35) 9th and D Lane (M21) (all hard). Only 5 Interlopers ventured out that night: M W Bruce (12th medium), A P Squire (20th medium) and myself (5th hard). There were 62 starters.

So, my thanks to the organisers, and here's hoping that such events are staged more often in the future - how about a 'night league' using areas such as Yellowcraig, Vogrie, Bonaly and the Braid Hills? One final comment - the 'tea-time' timing worked well, the daylight Saturday was not lost and neither was Saturday evening!

P Woolverton

NEW MEMBERS

ESOC welcome the following new members:

Tonya Brash W15) 5 Hillview Drive
Peter Brash M19) - EH12 8QW
Harry Brash M40) 343-7152

Lyn Easton W15

Yes, I know the last 6 Day was only last year but Highland '87 is almost upon us. The columns of Capital 'O', Score and Compass Sport have been full of debate about the Scottish 6 Day series and the organisers of Highland '87 promise us the best event ever. But they need our help. ESOC have been paired on Day 5 Achilty N (BOC '86 forest) with Solway, Scotland's largest club and Roxburgh Reivers, Scotland's smallest club. Neither provided a major official for Tayside '85. It is to be hoped that they do in '87 otherwise it will be Tayside '85 all over again for ESOC! The organisers, INVOC, have appointed Ken Naismith as the overall Day Organiser and he will presumably look after showers, toilets and car parks on all days. This leaves ESOC, RR and Solway to come up with 2 Controllers (1 Grade 1), 2 Planners and 2 Organisers. Ian Jackson is negotiating with other clubs as to ESOC's commitment but in the mean time all those who backed the 6 Day at ESOC's AGM one pace forward please!

Ben Bate

SITUATIONS VACANT

Organiser Wanted - ESOC Badge Event, Glentress 23/11/86. Previous experience useful but not essential. Contact Ian Jackson 445-2921.

Organisers/Planners/Controllers wanted for Highland '87. ESOC have day 5 at Achilty North. Contact Ian Jackson 445-2921.

Social Organiser - ESOC Social in October 1986. Contact Stuart Edgar 440-4123.

Summer 'O' Series - Helpers wanted. Pick a date and contact the organiser.

Lothian 'O' League - Planner/Controller/Organiser for winter 86/87. Contact Ian Jackson 445-2921.

Mapping and Surveying its not as tricky as Bill(WAG) makes out contact Ian or Bridget Jardine 0506 882816

Still in Geordieland I hear that the two Newcastle clubs - Newcastle Orienteers and Tyne Orienteers may soon be combining forces, the main reason being to offer a stronger club image to newcomers.

This goes against the grain of current thinking that Clubs should be splitting into smaller, more local, nuclei. But this can only happen if the new clubs have clearly identifiable centres. Certainly to the outsider (and perhaps to the Geordie interested in trying 'O') should not Newcastle and Tyne Orienteers be one and the same group? Certainly they should be if their catchment areas are similar, otherwise, is there not the danger, like the two men trying to row a boat with one oar each, that however hard they pull, if that vital synchronisation is lost, they'll gain no forward motion.

This is from CompassSport
If they use our stuff and
with an acknowledgement
they are welcome....!

Sounds like a good idea

MAPPING WITH A DIFFERENCE

It happens to all of us at some time. We just can't make ends meet. Perhaps you've guessed? This weeks appeal is on behalf of unfortunate mappers like myself. They have a problem. At times, nothing seems to go right. Why?

There are only four sources of error in going from A to B and plotting in C on the way.

- 1) Where you think A and B are.
- 2) The distances AB, AC, and CB.
- 3) The angles between these lines.
- 4) The angles between these lines and magnetic north.

In an area with many point features which must be positioned accurately relative to their neighbours, I use a 25m length of old plastic covered 'bedside light' flex, with a tent peg at each end and do a fairly straight traverse through the block using compass for direction. This takes care of 2 on, or within, say, 50m of this line. I did try to start and finish on a line feature, preferably at a junction, using something that looks as if it might be correct on the base map.

I would not have been surprised to be 1° or 2° off a 'fit', but was puzzled by sometimes being out by 4° or 5°. What was wrong?

My first thoughts were "What did Interlopers use as a base map?" However, a few phone calls and a visit to the Scottish National Map Library showed that the 1964 OS 6" was the best available source. Some more phone calls and a look at old OS maps (which I had) and new ones (in a bookshop) indicated that Magnetic Declination, which changes by $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ in periods varying from eight years (around 1971) to two years (around 1981), might now be about 6° west of Grid North.

I decided to check the accuracy of both the OS and the Declination. Not having a theodolite, I borrowed a spectrometer, early 1900, whose telescope could be tilted up and down easily and made a table for it which fitted onto my camera tripod. It reads to 0.1° or 0.05° with care. I wanted to check the relative direction of two walls. One was dead straight on both the 6" and the 1:2500 map and was a border between a field and the forest. The other had a slight curve of the order of one or two degrees. It was in the forest but adjacent to a cleared area.

First snag, The forest was full of snow but I was fortunate to get a lift up the hill in a well known red maxi. Watch out for it in the next Scottish rally!

Second snag. I couldn't see the wall for the trees so I had to offset about 25m to a convenient tree using the flex.

Third snag. You need something recognisable to focus on, so that meant trudging through the deep snow to position ski sticks, one with my hat and the other with my scarf, leaving me to freeze.

Fourth snag. When the telescope was moved round, the hairline was no longer vertical so I had to level the table by watching which way a roll of tape moved.

The telescope was returned to the original sighting to see if it still agreed and I was relieved to see that it did so within 0.1°.

(For transverse table tilt and telescope axis tilt θ , the error is approx $\frac{\theta}{60}$ which for $\theta = 2^\circ$ and $\theta = 15^\circ$ is less than 1° error.

Measurements were repeated with a compass mounted on a long strip of wood and with two brass sighting pins. It was fixed onto the tripod.

The results were enlightening. What else could I expect using a spectrometer? The angles between the walls A and B were as shown in line 1 of the table. Those on the map were measured using a 15cm diameter protractor marked in $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ (45p) and estimated to 0.1°.

Also shown are the angles between grid north (maps) and magnetic north (compass) and walls A, B and C and road D

ANGLE	0.8. 6" 1964	0.8. 1:2500 freehand tracing	Spectrometer	Compass	Declination
Wall A to Wall B	98.9°	99.5°	98.9°	98°	-
Wall A G or M	63.3°	63.5°	It is	57 $\frac{1}{2}$ °	6°
Wall B G or M	35.6°	36.2°	difficult	41°	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ °, 5°
Wall C G or M	33.6°	32.5°	lining up	40°	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ °, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ °
Road D G or M	328.5°	328.3°	on a grid line	334 $\frac{1}{2}$ °	6°

The freehand tracing was not accurate enough to outweigh the consistency of the results for the declination obtained between compass and 6" map.

Conclusion: This OS 6" map is basically accurate. Small ripples in walls are not shown nor are larger curves in roads, but they have the line drawn on the map as their mean.

When a compass is mounted as above, consistency within $\pm 1^\circ$ is easy to obtain but if hand held without any sighting device, errors of 3° or more are quite possible, especially if the light is poor, or the visibility lopsided by eg overhanging branches on one side of the wall.

The magnetic declination is consistent within the possible accuracy of reading the compass and could be taken as 6° \pm $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ west for Glentress in 1986.

You might be relieved to know that several compasses agreed with each other within 1°.

Remember then, bearing in mind, use a separate sheet of plastic film and give generously. Even 3° or 4° would help relieve the suffering of one of these unfortunate mappers and help him or her to get back onto the right path.

WAG

A Chance for some Planning Experience:

Barry Woodfine is planner for the Interlopers badge event at Drummond Hill in October and has said that he will be happy to take on an assistant in order to give perhaps a junior or less experienced member the opportunity to learn what planning a big event involves. Anyone interested should contact Barry (031-447-7267) and can do so without fear of being landed with lots of work or responsibility.

AS OTHERS SEE US

Pete Livesey, writing in Feb's Climber Rambler about the Karrimor Mountain Marathon talks about the different types of people who enter. Of Orienteers he says - although well turned out in anti-hepatitis trousers, orienteers are a rather dull, very intense lot - he advises not to pitch a tent next to an orienteer as they tend to spend 5 hours going over the route pointing out navigational errors. He does reckon orienteers are worth following and he has obviously not heard about AIDS!.

Scotcade, the well-known mail order firm, offer 'Rubber-armoured binoculars with roof prism clarity - pocket sized power for £49.95. Ideal for sailing, bird-watching, rambling and orienteering.'

If you are having trouble finding controls contact Scotcade!!!.

Why are there two orienteering clubs in Edinburgh? Whilst ESOC is now about 25 years old, Interlopers was started as a closed club in the early 1970's by ex Edinburgh University O.C. members who for a variety of reasons did not wish to join the existing Edinburgh club. Interlopers soon became an open club and now has a membership of about 80, of whom only a few have links with Edinburgh University.

Historical associations and rivalries there may be between Interlopers and ESOC, but the continuation of two separate open clubs in Edinburgh is surely now outdated, when the advantages of amalgamation are considered.

A member of ESOC put it to me recently that Interlopers and ESOC are actually two separate halves of the same club in that Interlopers have the bulk of the younger membership (ie under 35) whilst ESOC are more family oriented with a greater proportion of members over 35.

The questionnaire survey carried out of the clubs' membership two years ago showed a small majority in each club against a merger. However, I wonder whether feelings have changed, after eighteen months of a very successful joint newsletter and joint socials (eg January's Burns Supper which was an excellent evening). I have not spoken to anyone recently who is against combining the clubs; least of all those people presently involved in organising ESOC or Interlopers.

So what are the advantages that a single club would bring? They are in three areas: resources, competition and identity.

Resources

A crucial point is that greater resources in terms of money and active manpower would be available to a combined club. Two separate clubs does mean that more active club members than necessary are tied up in administration rather than improving other aspects. Improvements could be made in the following areas:

(a) Mapping - Rather than competing for suitable areas, the mapping effort could be more effectively managed. With the greater financial resources available, and the mappers in both clubs properly co-ordinated, a greater range of quality maps could be made available to Edinburgh orienteering.

(b) Juniors - Both clubs have been failing to provide adequate training, coaching and encouragement for keen juniors. That there is a demand for this is shown by the huge response to the SE Area Junior Squad run by John Biggar and Fiona Hendrie. Some 50 juniors turned up to one of their recent sessions. They can't cope effectively with those numbers and a combined Interlopers/ESOC Junior Squad would clearly fill a need and enable the SE Area Junior Squad to operate as it should.

(c) Events - A larger number of local events could and should be put on in Edinburgh each year. A major problem is finding a sufficient number of active members to take on the Organiser/Planner/Controller roles: a combined club without a duplicated committee may ease this problem.

Presently co-ordination between the clubs in putting on small series of events is usually successful but hasn't really resulted in more events. How much easier organisation would be if we were all in one club!

(d) Physical and Technical Training - For fit orienteers, physical training is well catered for in Edinburgh with Tuesday night intervals at the Meadows and Thursday night runs from Meggetland, but there is too little physical or technique training available for other club members of varying fitness and ability.

A problem in Interlopers has been that there have been too few people at a particular level, eg beginners requiring rudimentary technique advice, to cater for properly. A combined club with greater numbers of members at particular levels should solve this and beginners and more experienced orienteers could get the advice and training they want.

Competition

The effect on CompassSport Cup prospects of a merger is obvious. I would add that success in the Cup competition and advancement to the later rounds and finals has engendered a very good club spirit in the clubs which have reached those stages, which the Edinburgh clubs lack to some extent at present.

Clearly stronger relay teams in the major competitions would result, and a healthy and competitive club championship with more people taking part could be enjoyable and significant, and replace the existing Interlopers/ESOC friendly rivalry.

Identity

For a newcomer to orienteering in Edinburgh, the existence of two clubs must be confusing. Which club should the prospective orienteer join? It also hinders attempts to promote the sport in Edinburgh, not least in obtaining aid and finance from public and private sources. A single Edinburgh club would give the sport a clearer profile in Edinburgh and should aid recruitment.

Permanent courses have recently been a topic for discussion. A unified club would surely be better equipped with resources and manpower to set up and administer such a course.

Several people have said to me: "What a good idea to merge but what would we call the new club?" This ought not to be a stumbling block. I personally favour the straightforward Edinburgh Orienteering Club, which would help to promote the sport but there are many possibilities: Capital Orienteers or Dunedin Orienteers for instance.

The Interlopers committee are resolved that it would be in the best interests of Edinburgh orienteering if the two clubs were to merge. We are proposing a motion to this effect for debate at the club's AGM on 22nd May. We would like to hear the views of club members, and ESOC members for that matter, perhaps in "Capital O", so that we can have as full a discussion as possible on the issue before this date.

For my part, the advantages to orienteering in Edinburgh of a single unified club which could provide more events, more maps, better coaching programmes, and stronger competition far outweigh any disadvantages or the historical attachment to separate clubs and names.

Bob Cherry

A wee further comment from your Interlopers editor....

The arguments for and against a merger were discussed at the last Int committee meeting, and as Bob indicates all those present were in favour of putting the motion described above to the club at the AGM. It should be mentioned, though, particularly for any members not too keen a merger, that some committee members were not present at the meeting, and at least one (me - I was abroad at the time) does not support

the motion. I am very much against the idea of a merger (and may well expound on this in the next "Capital O") and I know of other folk who do not like the idea. Mike Burton was also not at the committee meeting and he too is not all for an amalgamation - and is also threatening to produce something for the next newsletter. So let us know YOUR views, it's not all one way traffic among "those people presently involved in organising" the club. Isn't it exciting? We'll be arguing like politicians next....

Charlie Walton

I would heartily endorse all that Bob says - the sooner we get together the better
Ben Bate

Read it today in Capital 'O' and tomorrow in Score and Compass Sport!.