

Capital O

THE JOINT NEWSLETTER OF INTERLOPERS AND ESOC

Number 9 - May 1986

Editors : Interlopers - Charlie Walton
55 Manor Place
Edinburgh EH3 7EG
031-225-5762

ESOC -

Ben Bate
18 Grange Terrace
Edinburgh EH9 2LD
031-668-3169

CALENDAR

MAY

- 14 Summer O : Dalkeith House
David Lane, 031-228-2379
- 16 FVO Ranking Event, Birnam (Dunkeld)
H.Astbury, School House, Strathyre,
Perthshire (08774-681)
Limited EOD
- 21 Summer O : Bonaly
Meryl Marshall, 031-449-5716
- 22 Interlopers AGM (7pm, Sommerville Room, Edinburgh
University, Pleasance), followed by
annual meal (Dragon Pearl restaurant,
opposite Playhouse)
- 24 BOC Warm-Up Event, Darnaway Central (Forres)
D.McNeil, Hilltop, Mackenzie Drive, Forres
0309-73803
- 25 British Championships, Achilty Forest (Contin)
Entries closed
- 26 BOC Badge Event, Achilty Forest (Contin)
Entries closed
- 28 Summer O : Colinton Dell (Dovecot Park)
Mark Wood, 031-664-5966

JUNE

- 1 Moravian Open Event, Newtyle (Forres)
J. Robertson, Suilven, The Quarters, Fochabers
Fochabers 0796
- 2 Capricorn entries close
- 4 Summer O : Holyrood
Alistair Lessells
- 7 Scottish Championships, Mable South (Dumfries)
Entries closed
- 8 Scottish Relay Championships, The Hills (Dumfries)
Entries closed
- 11 Summer O : Calder Wood
John Biggar, Linlithgow 845084
- 15 Invoc Open Event, Carse Wood (Ardersier)
D. Ayres, 4 Tern Avenue, Culcabock, Inverness
0463-222080
- 18 Summer O : Saltoun Forest
Sheila Strain, Tranent 611014
- 22 Maroc Open Event, Dalliefour, Ballater
J. Bennie, Elizabeth Cottage, Woodside Road,
Banchory 03302-2383
- 25 Summer O : Bonaly Tower - Relays + barbecue
Mike Burton, 031-447-1117
- 28-29 Capricorn weekend, northern England
C. Pilling, 4 Peel Place, Barrowford, Nelson
- 29 ECKO Mini Mountain Marathon, Lochgoilhead
H. Smith, Ardentinnny Centre, by Dunoon

Other areas have similar series to the Edinburgh Summer O, for example run by Roxburgh Reivers in the borders and by FVC around Stirling. Details in "Score", or from the clubs involved, or your club committee.

LOTHIAN 'O' LEAGUE WINTER 86/87

Provisional dates for this popular series are as follows:

- 21 September ESOC
- 12 October Edinburgh Univ. using new
Corstorphine Hill map.?
- 9 November Roxburgh Reivers
- 14 December Linoc
- 11 Jan '87 Interlopers
- 22 February ELO
- 22 March WFO

SUMMER 'O' LEAGUE SERIES

The summer 'O' series co-ordinated by Charles Howie (667 8287) started on 30/4/86 at Craigmond to be followed by :

- 7 May Hillend - Bob Cherry 557 0652
- 14 May Dalkeith House - David Lane 228 2379
- 21 May Bonaly - Meryl Marshall 449 5716
- 28 May Colinton Dell - Mark Wood 664 5966
- 4 June Holyrood - Alistair Lessells 337 1144
- 11 June Calderwood - John Biggar L'gow 845084
- 18 June Saltoun - Sheila Strain Tr'nt 611014
- 25 June Bonaly - Mike Burton 447 1117

This series is intended as an introduction to 'O' with control cards, timing etc. Help is needed and if you are available, contact the organiser or just go along and lend a hand. Registration 5.30 for 6.00pm starts, but it is usually busy at 5.30pm. A beautiful poster has been designed and distributed to the four corners of Lothian. Publicity material is also available to those who compete with a view to increasing overall membership in Lothian - so if you know someone who has an interest in 'O'!!!.

* * Training * *

Training on tuesday and thursday evenings continues as normal, just the job for sharpening up before the championships, or just to get into some sort of shape for the summer. We're having big turn-outs with folk of all abilities coming along, so don't be afraid.

To remind you of the details :

Tuesday : Interval session, short and only as painful as you choose to make it! Meet at the east end of the meadows, ready to run at 7:55pm.

Thursday : Run from Meggetland - mostly off the road now it's light at night; most folk do 5 to 10 miles, or on a nice night some venture a bit further up into the Pentlands. No need to be a superstar, just to enjoy running. The ladies section on thursdays has been particularly strong of late, and we've been taking over nearly half the Centre Court Pub afterwards! Meet for the run at the changing rooms at Meggetland (great hot showers these days - 20p donation is asked for, but it's all ploughed back into the sport, or at least the regular participants stomachs!) at 6pm, or in the pub from about 7:15.

I'd like to start off with a short note to Ned "silly name" Paul, editor of CompassSport, in the hope that he might read at least this far. I've no objection to material from "Capital O" being used in CompassSport, but please note that it is from the JOINT NEWSLETTER for Interlopers and ESOC, not from the "ESOC newsletter" as stated in a couple of recent CompassSports. There may be a question mark hanging over the future of the newsletter (more in a moment) but for the time being it remains a joint production.

It's coming up to AGM time again so this might be my last chance to waffle away in this capacity, but time and space suggest that I should limit myself to topical issues, like mergers. Merger mania might not be a very accurate description, but the idea of teaming up with ESOC has certainly generated more articles for the newsletter (3 so far!) than anything else in the past year. The proposal that is to be put at the AGM is detailed elsewhere, and I hope there will be a good turnout and a representative vote (remember postal votes are OK if you can't be there in person), but a side issue to be considered is what is to become of "Capital O". If, at the AGM, the vote is in favour of a merger, the ball then passes to the ESOC court; if they too like the idea of joining up, the new club will presumably have a new newsletter, and we just have an interim period to worry about, during which the current arrangement may as well continue.

But what if the motion is defeated, or if ESOC don't want to merge? The joint newsletter could of course continue in either case, but I feel a decision should be made at the AGM regarding the future of the newsletter. "Capital O" has now had a fair trial run, and I for one feel that the sooner we get back to our own separate newsletters the better - see my "merger" article for more details. I am aware, however, that many members are in favour of the joint production, and I feel that the best situation would be for the editor to be in agreement with the majority, so if a combined newsletter is what is wanted I would be happier not to stand for the editor's post again. I hope this may generate some discussion at the AGM (and suggest that this takes place before the committee elections), and I will be interested to hear any comments.

Another problem we have at present is just what is happening on tuesday nights these days. Training at the Meadows continues as always, usually with a large turnout from a variety of backgrounds (including numerous orienteers), but the Southsider has been shut of late so no one knows where to meet up later on. Some folk have been going to the Golf (by Bruntisfield Links) while others prefer the Partridge (just along from the Southsider), although neither have been declared particularly suitable. This confusion does little for the tuesday pub night which seems to be struggling for survival at the best of times. Part of the problem is a result of timing; those running at the Meadows either head straight to the pub, or go off to wash and eat before re-appearing later on, to be joined by others who have given the training a miss. As few can afford to spend all night in the pub these days, and it's not always a good idea in mid-week anyway, many of the "early pubbers" disappear off before the later folk arrive - not much of a get together.

It seems to me that the combination of an "after training" drink and a club gathering is doomed to failure, with both suffering as a result. The club gathering might be more inviting if it was less regular, say every second week, or if training was earlier on. I'm not too keen on running at 8pm anyway, but it's a rush to get home, washed, fed, and out again to the pub for say 10 o'clock. Would intervals at 7pm be a silly idea? I realise this goes against a wealth of history and tradition, but it might make a more manageable tuesday night and make the pub night later on seem more attractive. Any comments? For the time being let's standardise the venue (any ideas?) and try and encourage more folk along - it's a good chance to meet folk and catch up with what's been going on.

Looking after newsletter distribution means that I have to keep a close eye on the membership list and while it is very nice to see a fair crop of new members this year, it is still sad to see some of our members from last year not renewing their membership. Some folk move to other areas, some change clubs, some just presumably drift away from the sport. Some turnover in a club is obviously to be expected, but it

would be of interest to find out why people leave the club - what are we doing wrong? If there is something you don't like about the club, or something you think could be better, tell the committee, or write to the newsletter.

That's more than enough about problems; what about orienteering? We have a great month in prospect, with the British champs, Scottish champs and Scottish relays all coming up, plus a badge event at Birnam, all offering good competition on quality terrain. The British is certainly shaping up to be a weekend to remember, though the word is that it is going to be tough - a good chance to show the southerners what orienteering is really all about! With local events mid-week as well there is plenty going on for all tastes, and how about this summer? The Capricorn is an excellent event if you like that sort of thing (2 day "mountain long O"), the Mammoth weekend sounds promising (though you deserve a prize if you can figure out how the relays are meant to work!), and the White Rose should be good practice for next year's JK. Much to look forward to anyway - but remember the AGM first. See you there if not before,

Charlie Walton

Secretary's Notes - from Andy Spenceley

We have had a lot of new members since the last newsletter - welcome to the club. The new members are:

Pollock family (Stephen M21, Sheena W21, Andrew M6, Steven M7), who were introduced to orienteering after a talk by Bob Cherry and John Campbell;

John Barrow (M40), who was a founder member of the club and has now rejoined after returning from Australia;

Joan Fyfe (W21), who has moved from Moravian;

Matthew Strachan (M21), an ex StAUOC;

Julie Grant, another ex StAUOC and AUOC;

Riemersma family (Rhdolph M40, Eva W40, Gordon M11, Ynske W10), who have been competing at Lothian O-leagues this season.

The club AGM and annual meal is taking place on Thursday 22nd May. We need some new committee members for next year, in particular the club needs a new secretary as after 3 years in the post I am retiring before I get voted out. I am spending more time involved with hill running than orienteering at the moment, so it is better to hand the job on to someone who is more committed to orienteering. Other vacant posts include Social Secretary, S.E. Area Rep. and perhaps, Newsletter Editor.

7 teams have been entered for the Scottish Relay championships on the 8th June at Hills Wood near Dumfries. The teams entered are 2 Open teams, 1 M35, 1 M17, 1 Womens Open and 2 Ad Hoc teams. All teams are for 3 people. If you feel you are not being catered for it is probably because you didn't contact me.

Once again I am pleading for officials and helpers. We need helpers at Drummond Hill on 28th September (note change of date), a planner is required urgently to help Charlie Walton plan day 6 of Highland '87. We also need a full set of officials for a badge event at Kinnoull Hill (Perth) next April and a Lothian O-league at Ewe's Hill (Stow) on 11th January 1987.

There is no Scottish 6 day event this year but instead how about trying one of the English multi day events? I have got details and entry forms for the "1986 Mammoth Weekend", 4 days of orienteering in the Lake District from 16th-19th August, and the "1986 White Rose Weekend", 3 days of orienteering on the North Yorkshire Moors from 23rd-25th August. If interested please contact me.

A final plea - please turn up at the AGM and annual meal, particularly if you are a new and "unknown" member.

Andy Spenceley

Well, well, well. David slew Goliath, and ESOC recorded its first ever CompassSport Cup victory (3rd time lucky) as the 10th largest O' club in Scotland beat the largest. Thanks to everyone who turned out, to all who scored points especially to our 5 outright class winners (Meryl, Andy, Eddie, Bill and Fen) - it could be your turn next, especially if our next opponents are weak in your age group.

Details of the next round elsewhere in this issue or from John Morris.

On the mapping front, Meryl Marshall as co-ordinator for the area is looking for volunteers to remap the existing Pentlands area, once the mapping season is over (2-3 weeks time). Please ring her, or Bridget Jardine (club mapping co-ordinator) if you are interested. It is revision mapping, so it is much easier than the primary mapping of Dalkeith Park.

Best of luck in the forthcoming Championship season.

Cheery O'
Ian Jackson

COMPASS SPORT CUP ESOC v SOLWAY 13/4/86

Thanks to good organisation by John Morris, an excellent turnout of 55 runners and some good steady runs by most of those 55 runners. ESOC managed to beat Solway 70-56. Well done to all concerned. Results were as follows:

ORANGE ESOC 11 Solway 10

R Lessells	5
Ruth Lessells	4
P Williams	<u>2</u>

RED ESOC 9 Solway 12

W Gould	6
M Williams	2
S Morris	<u>1</u>

BLUE ESOC 11 Solway 10

E Harvey	6
D Wood	3
R Pyatt	<u>2</u>

GREEN ESOC 15 Solway 6

M Marshall	6
C Wood	5
R Pyatt	<u>4</u>

BROWN (Team B) ESOC 13 Solway 10

B Bate	6
I Jackson	5
J Morris	<u>2</u>

BROWN (Team A) ESOC 11 Solway 10

A Curtis	6
M Kassyk	3
D Carmichael	<u>2</u>

The next round is against Clydeside probably in mid-June. See you there.

Ben Bate

BOF-Teachers/Club Coach Awards

A training and assessment course leading to the BOF Coach Awards is to be held in Lothian. The first date will be 20/9/86. Further details from Pete Leach, 9 Elcho Road Longniddry - 52060. Closing date is 15/6/86, no EOD.

SITUATION VACANT - WANTED

Helpers - for Summer 'O' Series. Contact organiser or turn up on the day. Experience not essential.

6 Day '87 - ESOC as supplying two controllers but may be asked for another major official (organiser or planner). If you are interested contact Ian Jackson (445 2921) ASAP.

Surveyors - ESOC are currently mapping a number of areas and require experienced surveyors to help the mapping co-ordinators who have already been appointed. Novice surveyors who want to get involved are also welcome. Contact Ian Jackson (445 2921) or Bridget Jardine (0506 682816)

Experienced Mapper - To map a new area south of Capelaw Hill - to be added to the Pentlands Map.

Planner/Controller/Organiser - ESOC's LOL. September 1986 contact Ian Jackson. Three posts are available.

MAPPING UPDATE (ESOC)

Dalkeith - David Lane has finished this area and an 'O' event is to be held there on 14/5/86 at 6.00pm.

Glentress - Much of the surveying has been done over the winter. Graham Pyatt is co-ordinating and Bridget drawing this map. The area is to be used in November.

Blackford - This area is being surveyed, if you want to help contact Ian Jackson (or is David Lane now co-ordinating this project?)

Pentlands - Meryl Marshall (449 5716) is co-ordinating this map and wants to hear from surveyors. The area south of Capelaw needs primary mapping.

Corstorphine Wood - Edinburgh University OC is believed to have finished this map - it is now at the printer.

Ben Bate

Future Social Event - Len Milarski has agreed to arrange a Superstars type event as a social, perhaps in October. If anyone has any comments contact Len - it might be organised as ESOC v Interlopers (if we haven't merged by then!).

SSSI or Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Certain areas of the country have been designated SSSI by the Countryside Commission. On a number of occasions permission for orienteering has been refused because the area is an SSSI. There are now hundreds of such areas and there could be a threat to 'O'. This is new ground and what is required is a knowledge bank on SSSI's. Pete Leach of SE Area is currently looking at all of the SSSI in SE Scotland to see where there could be conflict between the conservation aims of SSSI and 'O' as a sport. Anyone with any information please contact - Pete Leach, 9 Elcho Road, Longniddry EH32 0LB - 52060.

This is an area where orienteering needs a public face so that those operating SSSI realise that orienteering is not harmful to flowers, trees and wildlife in the way that horse-riding or motor cycling might be.

At the Interlopers AGM on the 22nd May there is to be a vote on whether or not we want to merge with ESOC to form a single, new orienteering club to cater for the Edinburgh area. Although this idea seems to be supported by the majority of the committee, I am very much against a merger, and would like to put forward some of the arguments against joining up.

Interlopers and ESOC at present survive side by side, each with about 70-100 members, its own identity, and its own way of doing things. Social functions, the newsletter, and some training are already combined to a certain extent, and the clubs do share the same "catchment area"; they remain different and independent, however, so folk in this area have a choice if they want to join their "local club", and I think that people should continue to have this choice.

The clubs have different historical backgrounds, but these should not be a barrier to progress; I have been an Interloper for less than two years, and prefer to forget that the club originated in ESOC, but I realise that some people have strong ties to a club, and these should be respected. Looking at the clubs today, I think it is wrong to say that they are two halves of some more complete body, and a glance at the membership list will show that Interlopers is not all full of M/W 19/20s, and that not all ESOC members are over 40 or under 14. Both clubs have a wide range of members, though competitive strengths may be different - not unusual in evolving clubs, what will Interlopers be like when we've been going as long as ESOC? It is true that, in Interlopers, the most active members (and most of the committee) tend to be younger and represent different interests than their ESOC counterparts, but this is partly due to, and partly the cause of, the differences between the clubs. I think that the differences are worth preserving, and in any case they tell me that the two clubs are not suitable candidates for a merger.

Club identities are important but difficult to quantify, so how about some of the other arguments for or against a merger? A new club, if formed, would be big (assuming members re-joined - a breakaway club has been mentioned already!). Orienteering is a developing sport, and we would hope to attract more members, so the club could get bigger - and probably more disjoint, more difficult to run, and more impersonal. I only know about half of the club at present, and feel that our current membership level is about right - manageable (eg newsletter deliveries), yet big enough to provide support, put on events, have worthwhile socials, get out relay teams etc. As far as the CompassSport cup goes, a combined club could provide a very strong team, probably too strong for other Scottish clubs, - so where's the competition, the sense of achievement when you win? Also far fewer members would get "competitive" runs in cup matches, and a lot of fun could be lost.

I do not believe that a combined club would put on many more events or do much more mapping. These depend very much on individuals, and new, good quality areas will not appear overnight. This year the Edinburgh clubs are putting on badge events in September and November - I don't think a combined club would. Between us we are putting on six or seven "summer Os" - would a single bigger club put on more? We are heavily involved in two days at Highland '87; I don't see a post-merger club taking on two days at Loch Lomond '89. I agree a smaller proportion of the club would be on the committee, and there may be more "indians" available to get on with more useful jobs, but in this instance I think less committee members might lead to less participation, to more apathetic folk not getting too involved. This might be what you want, of course, but it's not the way ahead for the sport. Another minor problem a merger would not help is finding controllers for events, as the two clubs can help each other out at present.

How about training? Would a combined club provide a better service to its members? In a year on the Interlopers committee no one has yet asked me about training, so I would question the demand. If members want to learn, they could start by asking. I believe we are already in a position to help people if there is demand, and both clubs have pools of experienced orienteers. Members from both clubs come along to physical training on Tuesdays and Thursdays, no problem there, and other training if provided could easily be made open to all.

Our social events are combined at present, and there is some attempt to structure the calendar, the clubs "putting something on" month about. This has not been very successful, with a hard core turning up to anything and otherwise people sticking to their own club socials. The Burns Supper showed things can work, but do we need the formalised structure? Why not keep socials open to whoever we want to let in, and let each club get on with arranging functions as they please? We might get a more natural flow of events, rather than having to think things up month by month, although much will depend on social secretaries. As long as communication between the clubs continues, we can still have joint socials, but they don't have to be part of a fully integrated system.

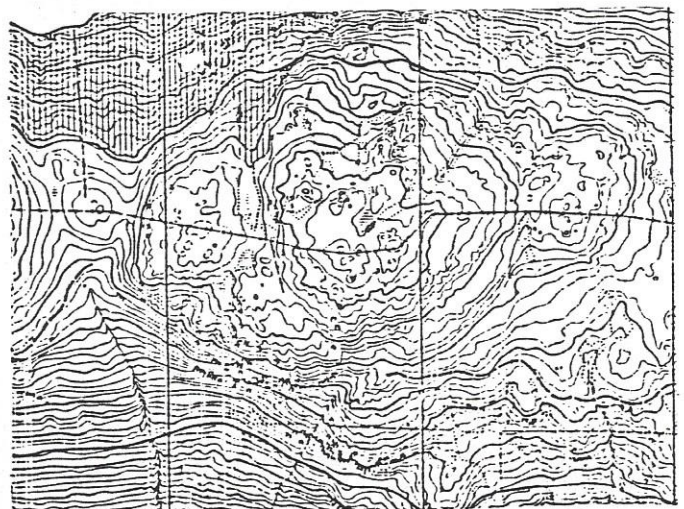
Having mentioned communication, this brings us to the newsletter. This is a joint production at present, though with two editors and separate duplication and distribution. Doing the newsletter for a merged club would be more work for an individual, and distribution would be more complicated, but overall things would be more efficient than at present. We now have a lot of irrelevant junk in the newsletter and minor hassles over timing and collecting material; the newsletter is a major expense for the club but it provides a useful Interlopers-ESOC communication link. I think we would be best to return to our own club newsletter, but to maintain a link to the other club, perhaps through a regular column or news section. The reduced volume would keep things cheaper and we wouldn't be lumbered with lots of ESOC irrelevancies, and the editor would have more freedom to produce the thing when it was convenient. A club newsletter can also help in the development of "club spirit", not easy if two rival clubs are involved.

It has been said that our financial position would be stronger after a merger, but I do not see this as a big problem at present, since we are not short of money. We don't need a combined club to help each other out with equipment if the need arises, though care is required here: is it a good idea to merge with a club that has not yet got round to replacing the poles for our club tent (which broke while on loan to ESOC a year ago)? (ESOC have, incidentally, managed to buy themselves a new tent in the meantime)

I think that there is plenty of room in Edinburgh for two clubs to survive, but we must work to keep our club strong. To merge is to give in to apathy; I believe we have more to lose than ESOC because it is the more easy going Interlopers way of doing things that is going to be lost. I've heard tales of ESOC committee meetings going on well past my bedtime - perhaps not true, but indicative of a different approach that is all part of club identity. Lets hang on to our identity, get back to our own newsletter, and keep ESOC as friendly rivals. As long as we talk to them, and pool our resources when it is advantageous, we can almost have our cake and eat it.

Charlie Walton

SPOT THE MAP



Note the NEW DATE : 28th SEPTEMBER

Organisers : Hilary Fairlie and Fiona Craddock
Planner : Barry Woodfine
Controller : ???

We hope that the favourable comments about the area after Tayside '85 will encourage lots of people to come along to our event. It is to be a ranking event and might be the SE Area championships. A good size entry will help offset the additional costs we will have due to the distance to the area. It is proposed to have master maps and entry on the day only. Keep the date free as the more helpers the better - some Interlopers may still be able to have competitive runs.

COMPASSSPORT CUP

The Interlopers v Clyde match was held at South Achray on 13th April, and we lost 71-51.

HIGHLAND '87

The Scottish 6 Day event is back next year, another top quality multi-day on your doorstep. Time is early August, event centre is to be Beaulieu. Two of the six days are to make use of the Achilty map that is the venue for the British champs later this month, and it is one of these days that Interlopers are helping with - day six. This means that our problems will probably include chasing starts for the elite classes and possibly public address systems, television etc. The other clubs involved are Clydeside and AROS, so between us there appears to be a reasonable combination of numbers and experience. Our biggest headache for the time being is sorting out volunteers for the main jobs - planning, organising, and controlling. The Interlopers committee thought that planning would be our most suitable option, and Charlie Walton might take the job on (with an assistant), though it is difficult to make plans so far in advance. If you have not tried a Scottish 6 day yet, it is a must for all orienteers, so consider next summer's holiday already booked!

INTERLOPERS 11th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Venue: The Sommerville Room at the Edinburgh University Sports Centre in the Pleasance.
Date: Thursday 22nd May 1986.
Time: 7-00pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 1985 AGM:
 - a) Approval
 - b) Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Financial Statement for the year ending 31/3/86.
5. Membership Fees for 1987.
6. Election of Office Bearers :
 - a) Honorary President
 - b) Chairman
 - c) Secretary
 - d) Treasurer
 - e) Newsletter Editor
 - f) Social Secretary
 - g) Junior Member
 - h) S.E. Area Representative
 - i) Two Ordinary Members
7. Motion. Proposed Bob Cherry, Seconded Andy Spenceley
"I propose that this club should merge with Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club to form a single new club with a new constitution and name."
8. Any other competent business.

All members of Interlopers are urged to attend the AGM to make sure their voice is heard on point 7 of the agenda. According to the constitution: "Decisions by vote at an AGM or a Special Meeting require a simple majority of those voting. Postal votes received at the Secretary's address before the day of the Meeting shall be accepted."

Andrew Spenceley

....STOP PRESS....

More new members : welcome to Alison Geddes (W21), Simon Thompson (M21), and Fiona McGee (W).

A NOTE FOR SEPARATION

Red Press

Having read Bob Cherry's article in the last newsletter proposing that it is time for Interlopers and ESOC to merge, I felt compelled to respond by expressing my opinions.

I see no new arguments either for or against the merger. All the points raised by Bob and all the points I will mention here were considered two years ago at the time of the questionnaire. I trust that the committee have re-read all the written comments which came in along with the questionnaires. I read these at the time and can remember a number of very strong opinions being expressed both for and against a merger, and do not believe that such strong views will change in less than two years.

Any historical connection that Interlopers had with Edinburgh University and any old rivalries between the clubs are not important. What matters is the present. There are two open Edinburgh clubs, each with roughly the same number of members and each having its own attitude to the sport and its own character. Although I prefer Interlopers' attitudes, I am sure that some other people prefer ESOC's.

I do not consider that the continuation of two separate open clubs in Edinburgh is now outdated. There is no reason to assume that people will be happy with one club now when fifteen years ago they decided that they needed two. Orienteering is not the only sport where Edinburgh has more than one club. There are several mountaineering clubs and at least two sailing clubs. People expect different things of a club and have different opinions about how a club should be organised, so why should there not be two or more clubs catering for these individual preferences?

The main arguments for the merger tend to rely on the assumption that the joint club would have a greater number of members to call on, so more would get done. This is just not true. I admit that the joint club would have more members than either individual club, and so would probably manage to organise more events and map more areas than either individual club, but a joint club would have no more members than both individual clubs together and so there would not be a greater pool of people active in the Edinburgh area. It is probable that less would be achieved by a joint club having a large membership because many existing club members help out because they are needed and because there are few other people to do the job if they don't. In a larger club there would always be "someone else" who could do it and so fewer people would become involved. The number of active planners, organisers and mappers will probably fall if the clubs merge.

I consider that the joint newsletter was a serious step in the wrong direction. The joining of the newsletters took place while I was Interlopers' editor, but I should stress that I was against the idea and only went ahead with it as a result of a mandate from the committee and membership at large through the questionnaire. The joint newsletter does not, in my experience, significantly reduce the editor's workload, and does lead to differences of opinion on editorial policy. The current incident involving CompassSport is a perfect example.

The loss of the club newsletter, and in my opinion we have lost it, weakens the identity of the club and perhaps causes the confusion in the minds of newcomers to orienteering in Edinburgh. Previously, a newcomer would probably have approached both clubs, read the different newsletters and chosen the club whose attitudes most closely agreed with his/her own. This is not so easy now.

I agree that a merger of the clubs would avoid a newcomer having to choose between two clubs, but is the reduction of choice a good thing? I think not. If anything, we want to accentuate the differences between the clubs, not merge them.

On the subject of socials, I see no conflict between having two clubs with separate newsletters but joint socials. I don't think that all the socials necessarily need be joint. It could be restricted to where there is sufficient interest from each club or where it would not be viable to organise something for a small number of people. Indeed, in the latter case we could even have socials in conjunction with other orienteering clubs or with clubs from other sports. This could be a way to attract new members.

To summarise, it is my view that we should:-

- a) Remain as two separate clubs each with its own character and its own way of doing things.
- b) Split the newsletter again to help to give each club its own identity back.
- c) Continue joint socials, perhaps even joint with other sports.

Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club

Membership List - April 1986

CLASS	CFW	Name	Phone	Address	Postcode	Committee
M35	F Ben	Bate	031 668 3169	18 Grange Terrace, Edinburgh	EH9 2LD	Newsletter Editor
M21	F Senga	Bate				
M21	C Ian	Beck	Liv. 33718	43 Easter Bankton, Livingston	EH55 9BD	
M21	C Rosalind	Beck				
M19	F Harry	Brash	031 334 7152	5 Hillview Drive, Edinburgh	EH12 8DW	
M19	F Peter	Brash				
M19	F Tonya	Brash				
M35	F Richard	Carrichael	08 993 336	Carrichael by Biggar, Lanarkshire	NL12 6PB	
M35	F Patricia	Carrichael				
9yo	F Andrew	Carrichael				
	H John	Collis		22 Challenger Street, Diamond Creek, Victoria 3089, Australia		
	H Sheila	Collis				
M40	C Morris	Conlan	Pen. 75194	4 Loonod Vale, Penicuik		
M40	F Peter	Coutts	0968 74514	208 Cuisken Terrace, Penicuik	EH26 9AP	
M45	F Norma	Coutts				
M15	F Kirsty	Coutts				
M13	F Alison	Coutts				
M21	F Andy	Curtis	0968 72751	3 Raesay Place, Penicuik	EH26 9JS	
M35	F Rod	Dallitz	031 445 4670	2 Frogston Avenue, Edinburgh	EH10 7AD	
M15	F Lynn	Easton	031 661 2473	29 Meadowfield Terrace, Edinburgh	EH8 7HR	
M35	F Stuart	Edgar	031 440 4123	9 Charlton Grove, Roslin, Midlothian	EH25 9NY	
M21	F Lesley	Elliot	031 447 4412	1/1 Kilgraston Court, Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh	EH9 2ES	
M35	F Helen	Finlayson		6 Lilybank Close, Matlock, Derbyshire		
M50	F Bill	Gauld	031 415 1542	45 Gaystane Road, Edinburgh	EH10 6SH	
M17	F Andrew	Seawell	031 445 1984	75 Swanston Avenue, Edinburgh	EH10 7DA	
M40	F Ed	Gillespie	031 667 2689	13 Cleikinning, Edinburgh	EH15 3DZ	
M21	F Eileen	Gillespie		11 Hanse Street, Edinburgh	EH12 7TR	
M15	F Scott	Hain	031 554 7423	17 Dalaeny St, Edinburgh	EH6 9PF	
M45	F Ben	Harte	031 667 6100	27 Wilton Road, Edinburgh	EH16 5NN	
M40	F Angela	Harte				
M15	F Jane	Harte				
M45	F Eddie	Harvey	031 447 3671	12 Millar Crescent, Edinburgh	EH10 5IM	
M35	F Brian	Horne	031 337 8695	21 Friarrose Terrace, Edinburgh	EH11 1PE	
M21	F Ruth	Horne				
M40	C Charles	Howie	031 667 8287	3 Sylvan Place, Edinburgh	EH9 1LH	
M13	C Ian	Howie				
M21	C Mark	Howie				
M21	C Marian	Hutchison	031 337 4043	7 Ritchie Place, Edinburgh		
M35	F James	Jack	031 334 6314	4 Clerwood Row, Edinburgh	EH12 8PU	
M35	F Ian	Jackson	031 445 2921	19 Swanston Crescent, Edinburgh	EH10 7EL	
M21	F Anthony	Jardine	0506 882816	10 Oraiston Drive, East Calder	EH53 0SN	President
M21	F Bridget	Jardine				Mapping Co-ordinator
M31	F Mark	Kassik	031 554 8648	105 Restalrig Road, Edinburgh	EH6 7NY	
M35	F Dave	Kershaw	031 667 4670	39 Mayfield Road, Edinburgh	EH9 2HQ	
M35	F Kirsteen	Kershaw				
M21	F David	Lane	031 228 2379	12 Bryson Road, 1st floor flat (4), Edinburgh	EH11 1EE	Treasurer
M45	F Ronald	Leask	031 551 1598	122 Trinity Road, Edinburgh	EH5 3LA	
M11	F Fiona	Leask				
M35	F Alastair	Lessells	031 337 1144	40 Oradale Terrace, Murrayfield, Edinburgh	EH12 6EF	
M35	F Katy	Lessells				
M13	F Ruth	Lessells				
M11	F Richard	Lessells				
M40	F Martin	Little				
M40	F family	MacKay	031 667 9539	18 Gilmaur Road, Edinburgh	EH16 5HT	
M40	F John	McLaren	031 336 4362	63 Silverknowes Crescent, Edinburgh	EH4 5JA	
M40	F Gerry	McPartlin	031 667 3988	28 Gilmaur Road, Newington, Edinburgh	EH16 5HT	
M40	F Rhona	McPartlin	031 447 6181	4 Ethel Terrace, Edinburgh	EH10 5DB	
M11	F Shona	McPartlin				
M10	F Eileen	McPartlin				

To Merge or Not to Merge? - that is the Question

by Michael Burton

Prescript: I wrote this article before I heard of ESOC's famous victory over Solway. I thought they were going to be thrashed, as, I think, did everyone else! How wrong I was!

I write this article on the day one of the clearest reasons for merging Interlopers and Edinburgh Southern has been made apparent. Today in the CompassSport Cup Interlopers were thrashed by Clyde and, I expect (though I have not yet heard the result) that ESOC have been thrashed by Solway. And the reasons for the defeats are complimentary. Against Clyde we dominated the M21A course but completely lacked runners in the younger juniors and veterans classes. And for exactly the opposite reason did ESOC succumb; for they have the juniors and veterans but lack those in between.

However our failures in the CompassSport Cup are not reason enough to merge the clubs. Orienteering clubs are not formed to win cups and trophies, but to promote the sport of orienteering. Competitive success is a secondary aim. The question to be asked is, are we succeeding in our aim of promoting the sport in Edinburgh? To do this we must produce maps, organise events, provide instruction and training, have social activities and a host of other activities that orienteering clubs get up to. The trouble in Edinburgh is that we don't really have two clubs; we are two dimorphic parts of the same beast. And as such we fail to function as we should. For most of the active membership of Interlopers the club provides exactly what we want to get out of it: regular physical training sessions, travel to major events, good pub evenings and socials. However we are poor at making maps, organising events, teaching novices and holding socials that appeal to families. Although we have the experience in the club to provide these services we are normally too busy competing, training, or participating in "fringe" activities such as hill running and ski-ing, to devote the time needed. The ESOC membership having, dare I say it, shaken off the frivolities of youth and acquired the responsibilities of parenthood, are more capable of providing the necessary

organisational infrastructure. With a balanced membership Edinburgh Orienteers would be able to provide an all-round programme of activities and help the sport to thrive in the capital. At the moment we are stagnating; the sport has no direction to aim for in Edinburgh and is drifting. A unified club will help us to relocate before we go too far astray.

What I have written above makes it sound that I only want one Edinburgh club. However I believe that Edinburgh should be able to support two orienteering clubs and for these two clubs to cater for the sport better than one large club. For two balanced clubs also encourage a sense of friendly rivalry. Each club tries to outdo the other in staging events and the competitiveness is essential in increasing standards in the sport. Witness the situation around London. The population may be much greater but there are over a dozen clubs serving England's capital. Some of these clubs only serve small geographical areas, have very limited terrain, yet are thriving. The supreme example is Croydon OC (CROC), formed only three years in an area served by three clubs. Covering just one London borough, with just one area in their boundary (and that a parkland), they now have a large, active and balanced membership, and provide regular training and socials. There are no superstars in the club yet, but CROC is conspicuous at every event in southern England; they have a great time and are even beginning to make a mark in the south-east of England's club league (despite virtually all the membership starting the sport in the last couple of years). It has taken enormous effort and enthusiasm of one man, Keith Jarret, to get CROC going, but now the effect is that of juggernaut. Edinburgh could benefit enormously from like injection of enthusiasm to the sport.

So what is to be done, do we merge or do we not? As it stands our two club system is not a success. The two clubs require a balanced membership and the only way we will achieve it is by arranging a few transfer deals between the clubs. Not a popular method I am sure! To start two balanced clubs from scratch is obviously not practicable at the moment. No, the only way to get capital orienteering back on the course is to merge - roll on Edinburgh Orienteers!

Much has been happening since the last "Capital C", from the far away UK in East Anglia to the so-so-summer O at Hilland last week. Interlopers didn't actually have much of a representation at the UK, with no relay teams and few members appearing in the impressive computerised results: we know that Chris Whalley, Pete Couldery and Barry Woodfine all ran, but they all got lost somewhere in the computer! Chris and Pete had the rare honour of being the first two finishers on day 2 (shame it wasn't a chasing start), and in fact finished before anyone else started - they were heading off on a ski-ing holiday, so had arranged Sam starts!

The club turnout at the next National event, at Torver in the Lakes, was a little better, and Mike Burton in fact came away as winner of M21A. Unfortunately there was an elite class, in which Mike should have been running, but EUOC again demonstrated their considerable ability for messing things up by getting the entries wrong. Are we really thinking of holding a joint event with them? The idea has been put forward - we use their nice new Kinnoul Hill map, get them to do some of the work, and then we keep most of the profit. Perhaps it is a good idea! Returning to Torver, resident superstar Whalley came a close 3rd in M21B, well done, and Interloper came 800er Bernard Rudock went one better in the big boys class - shame his new club will probably want him for the Harvester this year.

Closer to home, Interlopers managed to lose their CompassSport cup match to Clyde, though Clyde don't seem very keen on producing detailed results. Mike Burton, Chairman Bob, and Pete Couldery did us proud in the M21 section but Clyde had too much strength in the youngsters/oldies classes - unlucky, but we'll win a cup match yet, wait till the full strength Balfour team appears. Back in the Trossachs a few weeks later, at the Loch Ard badge event, we hear we had a winner in M21A - well done to Lorna Boyd, even if she was masquerading as an EUOC member. Also, a week earlier some KNUOC member called Charlie Walton won M21A at the Kirhill North badge event, and in the most recent edition of "Score", more Interlopers success - congratulations to Carrie Woolverton on her victory in the Lothian C League; we hope to see Carrie moving up from the Yellow course next year!

Away from the forest, a popular thing amongst Interlopers at present seems to be going away. Anne Messer has gone away to farthest Africa for a temporary appointment; Ken Owens has deserted his new car and his newsletter delivery round to go to Cameroon for "at least three months" (sent by Ferranti, and unfortunately missing the infamous Mount Cameroon race); and Jean Smith has eventually actually gone off to the jungle on Operation Thingy (can you spell Raleigh?). Jean should now be in one of the less fashionable parts of "PNG" (Papua New Guinea to you - another awkward one to spell), armed with machete, hammock and puttees, but should be back in three months if she survives.

With Anne and Jean away, Barry Woodfine and John Mitchell have both been busy moving house. Barry is now living next door to the Pentlands, lots of good local running so he could be a man to watch this season, while John has joined the recent spate of flat buyers with a new abode just down the road from the ha-ha-Hearts ground. We hear John's flat is now full of Jean's stuff, and John says he will be working overtime for the next three months - probably on his snocker, we think!

Talking of folk going away, does anyone remember John Campbell? He sent a letter back from the States not long ago to tell us all how he is getting on, and certainly seems to be having an interesting time. If you want to know about American architecture, John's the man to ask! It sounds as if he'll try to extend his stay "over there" for a bit longer than the year originally planned, and he has some interesting comments on the American way of life, and on the orienteering in North America. The letter is going around so if you're interested try and track it down - and there should be a few good contacts if you're thinking of going to the USA yourself.

The hill racing season is again with us and we are pleased to report that Andy Spenceley has been sighted running again, albeit fairly gently. Andy, Pete Couldery and Bob Cherry are, along with other Cherrys, making up a team in the Scottish Islands Peaks running/sailing race this month, so we wish them luck. Mike Burton is showing some form on the hills (and not only on thursday nights), and latest news is that he picked up a variety of useless prizes at the Ben Lomond race after placing 9th. We look forward to reporting lots more good Interlopers results over the next few weeks, so keep them rolling in!

ANOTHER CLUE:



Watch out - there's another Kershaw about! Congratulations to Dave and Kirsteen on the birth of a daughter on 14th April.

Club	Name	Age	Score	Address	Team Captain
M10	Marshall	10	031 445 5710	10 Whitelee Road, Balerno	
M11	Marshall	11			
M12	Marshall	12			
M13	Marshall	13			
M14	Marshall	14			
M15	Marshall	15			
M16	Marshall	16			
M17	Marshall	17			
M18	Marshall	18			
M19	Marshall	19			
M20	Marshall	20			
M21	Marshall	21			
M22	Marshall	22			
M23	Marshall	23			
M24	Marshall	24			
M25	Marshall	25			
M26	Marshall	26			
M27	Marshall	27			
M28	Marshall	28			
M29	Marshall	29			
M30	Marshall	30			
M31	Marshall	31			
M32	Marshall	32			
M33	Marshall	33			
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M35	Marshall	35			
M36	Marshall	36			
M37	Marshall	37			
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M39	Marshall	39			
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M42	Marshall	42			
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M44	Marshall	44			
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M91	Marshall	91			
M92	Marshall	92			
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M94	Marshall	94			
M95	Marshall	95			
M96	Marshall	96			
M97	Marshall	97			
M98	Marshall	98			
M99	Marshall	99			
M100	Marshall	100			

from Fiona Craddock

Due to circumstances beyond my control (a televised ice hockey match) the skating night had to be cancelled at short notice. Apologies to anyone who turned up to find just a cancellation notice - I did try to reach as many people as possible by phone.

The next social is on May 22nd after the AGM and takes the form of a Chinese meal at the Dragon Pearl (opposite the Playhouse) at 9 p.m. A table for 25 has been booked and although numbers will be quite flexible it would be helpful if you could give me a ring in advance if you want to come - 343 1828.

Pete Woolverson has kindly agreed to organise another Water "O" on Linlithgow Loch following last year's popular event. This will probably be one evening in July - details and exact date to follow.

And some more news about socials :

John Colls

I hear from Doug Wood that John Colls will be in Scotland at the end of May. John will be at the Curlers' Bar Inverness Ice Rink which of course is the Event Centre for the British Champs on Sat 24th May 3 pm

John is an ex ESCC'er who moved to Victoria Australia some years ago.

June 29th Nostalgia 'o' event Stuart Edgar 440 4123 Celebrating ESCC's 21st Bar B Q at Carmichael estate.

Aug 30th Car rally Len Milarski Penicuik 71 75555

24 May Meet John Colls Curlers Bar Inverness Ice Rink 8 pm.

HASH RUN 23 APRIL

Hilary Fairlie.

This was my first experience of 'hashing' so it was with some apprehension that I turned up at Blackford Pond on Wednesday night. My trepidation grew as Eddie Harvey turned up, soaked to the skin and covered in mud and congealed flour, having laid the trail.

For those in ignorance, as I was, 'hashing' involves following a trail marked by handfuls of flour dropped every hundred yards or so. Then you will come to a flour circle on the ground and the trail stops. The runners spread out in all directions, shouting 'Checking' until the trail is picked up again and the finder yells 'On, On' to alert the others who follow. While following the trail one is meant to shout 'On, On' continually but I found this somewhat difficult between gasps, and we probably scared the living daylights out of the convalescent patients at the Astley Ainslie where we ran through the grounds.

'It's about 10K' quoth Eddie. 'I'll come back in about an hour!' I glanced at the dozen assembled athletes. Would I keep up? But I did, thanks partly to Ben Bate who invariably ran off in the wrong direction when 'checking' so was always in sight catching up with the leaders (and overtaking them only to get lost again!), partly through the multi-decibelled tones of the 'On, Onners', and of course because of the gallants who waited for me as I picked my way knee deep through the mud in some obscure part of the Hermitage of Braid. E. Harvey Esq. assured me he had planned that part of the route specifically for me! I shall shortly be running a competition for the best idea for getting my own back. The prize will include mud-wrestling with your choice of the said Mr Harvey or Meryl Streep. Eddie is at this moment suggesting that in order to encourage younger members of the clubs only W11 to W19 should be eligible. The Interlopers secretary has just reminded him that this is a family newsletter.

The weather held up all evening and we visited many places I didn't know existed - mostly muddy! Eddie had told us there was one backtrack and two false trails. Ian Jackson's expertise quickly solved the backtrack, and we never found the false trails, although I now have to admit that we might never have got out of the Astley Ainslie had a porter not told me where he'd seen the 'laddie' who laid it going!

The estimated hour lengthened and with every turn away from Blackford Hill the language blued. Eventually we arrived back bedraggled and collapsing after spending 10 minutes searching in vain for the end of the trail... he'd run out of flour? No - he thought these spent creatures would like a burn-up at the end!

It was a thoroughly enjoyable event, made even better by the teamwork element where the faster runners did the hunting work while the slower ones had a chance to catch up. To mount my soapbox for a second, isn't this what sport should be about?

The occasion culminated in a Chinese banquet at the Loon Fung, where we ate an interesting assortment of dishes (I'm convinced eyeballs featured) and Cliff and Ben demonstrated ably how to replenish the energy they'd lost running double the distance of anyone else.

A big 'Thankyou' to Eddie. A 'must' for a repeat.

And afterwards . . . over to Cliff White

ONE-UPMANSHIP IN A CHINESE EATING HOUSE

Appetites are usually large after a Hash run so, if you want to stay ahead of the pack, follow these simple rules :

1. Arrive early and choose your table carefully; avoid an all male cast as they eat more and are faster too.
2. Insist on everyone using chopsticks, this way half the company will spend a frustrating evening dropping food everywhere, guaranteeing more for you. This is especially true if you've taken the elementary precaution of practising your chopstick technique the night before.
3. Treat the meal like a Score Event - go for the lemon chicken and get more points, leave the low scoring rice till last.
4. Don't talk, eat. Encourage the comrades to chat while you munch, an occasional nod and grunt should keep your end of the conversation going.

Finally 5. Don't sit at the same table as me, I'll only steal your lemon chicken!

Cliff White

LATEST NEWS: Castorvine Hill, 12 o'clock
Carmichael Estate, 6pm

Beyond The Controls

Following my crass stupidity in failing to realise that there was a 2nd Master map at the Compass-sport Cup event at Dalswinton, it is just as well that my enjoyment of 'O' events is not confined to the competition.

Particularly since mostly having youngsters in tow I usually take advantage of visiting places of interest nearby and am always a bit surprised not to find other 'O' types there.

How many running at Dalswinton were aware that there, on a Loch in the estate grounds, a most significant event took place on 14th October 1788. This was the scene of the trials of the world's very first steamship.

Built by Patrick Miller, the estate owner, this nameless ship had twin hulls with paddles between and propelled by a 1/2 H.P. engine built by Wm. Symington, later credited with building the better known, and more successful, "Charlotte Dundas" in 1802. Miller's ship was only 25 feet in length. Also of interest is that Robert Burns, who was then farming Ellisland directly across the Mith, was present and it is possible may have been on board.

Ellisland, which Burns farmed for 3 1/2 years and where he wrote 'Tam O' Shanter', houses a number of relics in a truly authentic setting. On that dreich day we were especially appreciative of the hospitable welcome the custodian gave us since she ushered us into the kitchen to the warmth of Rabbie's own fire!

Four miles South of Ellisland is another gem. Perhaps the finest surviving stone circle on the Scottish mainland, known as the 'Twelve Apostles'.

Thus although I am unlikely ever to return laden with 'O' trophies there are many rewards for those who seek them.

Ronnie Leask, ESCC.