

THE AUCKLAND BLABBERMOUTH

February-March 1999



The newsletter for the Auckland area orienteering clubs:

Auckland Orienteering Club
Counties Manukau Orienteering Club

NorthWest Orienteering Club
Waikato and Auckland Campus Orienteers

EDITORIAL

No more Shaun's Say. Now it's Jill's jottings. Thanks for all you've done to revamp the newsletter and give us Blabbermouth, Shaun, and best wishes for your and Madeleine's trip to London. I must admit that after years of writing and editing other people's words for newspapers, magazines, brochures, what have you, I did not have great enthusiasm for taking over the newsletter but, until someone else shows up, here I am. And I can't pay anyone to do the stuff I hate, the desktop publishing part, so you'll have to forgive the mishaps. Still, it's not too bad being here in the editor's seat. At least you get some of the goss before it hits the press.

First of all, thank you Joanna Stewart for organising an event at One Tree Hill on 9 March. Great way to celebrate our wedding anniversary and this gives me a chance to remind Andy of this significant - yeah - date which he has got wrong more often than right in the past 36 years. (In fairness I should add that he usually gets the month right.)

This issue of Blabbermouth is full of happenings of specific interest to Auckland members. Thank you to all those who succumbed to my bullying and sent me copy. If any of you find anything of interest on the internet, please let me know so it can be included in the mag, or better still copy it to me on abrewis@iprolink.co.nz. This would save me surfing, too much of which might not be recommended for a not very successful veteran who should spend more time improving orienteering skills.

There's a lot coming up this year. Of major importance is the World Masters Orienteering Championships to be held around the New Year. First event is being organised by Auckland clubs and is on an Otakanini Topu-Turkey Ridge map on Tuesday 28 December 1999. Be warned - you could be asked to help. Next is an event in Taupo 29 December and then it's south to Red Kiwi land for the big one, WMOC 2000, starting 1 January. You don't have to be a veteran to enter as there will be events for other age groups too. You automatically become a veteran at age 35 whether you like it or not ..all those who qualify should be there. Someone has to win!

See you soon

Jill

Cover illustration: from WMOC Czech Republic 1998 (though it could be one of a dozen maps I can think of in Auckland and Whangarei).

CALENDAR

Please call Club Secretaries for final confirmation of these details: (A) Auckland: Mark Stewart 09 575 5695; (CM) Counties-Manukau: Aidon Nelson 09 232 8448; (E) Egmont: Suzanne Scott 06 758 4739; (H) Hamilton: Linda Flynn 07 889 6751 (NW) NorthWest: Jill Smithies 09 838 7388; (P) Pinelands: Chris Jackson 07 886 5313; ® Rotorua: Peter Fitchett (07) 345 6786; (T) Taupo: Alison Mensen 07 378 0577; (WACO) Waikato and Auckland Campus: Melissa Edwards 09 634 8104; (Wh) Whangarei: Dick Rankin 09 434 6499; (NOS) National Orienteering Squad: Alistair Cory-Wright 445 9960

February

- Wed 24 A SUMMER SERIES - Carrington (1st Secondary School event), UNITEC Gate 3, Carrington Rd, Mt Albert. Start times 5.30-6.45 pm.
- Sat 27 T Katoa Po All Night Relays – Taurewa
- Sun 28 T CDOA OY1 – Taurewa

March

- Tues 2 A SUMMER SERIES - Panmure Basin - a new map, off Ireland Rd. Start times 5.30-6.45 pm. Info ph Stewart family, 575 5695
- Sun 7 NW Social Day, Tawharanui Regional Park, all NorthWest members welcome
- Tues 9 A SUMMER SERIES - One Tree Hill (2nd Secondary School event). Start times 5.30-6.45 pm. Info ph Stewart family, 575 5695
- Sun 14 NW Muriwai, beginners especially welcome. Signposted from Muriwai Beach Rd (off SH 16 at Waimauku). Coaching provided. Start times 10-11.30 am
- 18 End of summer Social to honour juniors who've helped with Summer Series. Info from Joanna Stewart, ph 575 5695
- Sun 21 T Club Event - Tauhara
- Sun 21 WHO Parua Bay
- 20-21 D Otago Champs – Dunedin

April

- 2-5 NOS EASTER 4 DAY NATIONAL O SQUAD AUCKLAND – Ahuroa, Pot Luck, Slater Road & Turkey Ridge – Entry Form enclosed
- 11 WHO Gumtown
- 16-17 D SILVA Secondary School Champs – Dunedin
- 18 CM Autumn Series 1 Huriwai
- 25 A Autumn Series 2 Beautiful Hills, Woodhill Forest (NB changed venue from previous announcement) off SH16, signposted from Waimauku
Extra Ordinary Meeting of AOA, 1 pm, following Autumn Series 2.
- 25 T Club Event – Karapiti

May

- 2 WHO Mangawhai - Long, Long, Long O

- 9 WACO Autumn Series 3 WhiriWhiri, Maioro
 15/16 H & EG CDOA OY3&OY4
 23 WHO Autumn Series 4 Mangawhai
 23 T Club Event – Tukarangi
 30 NW Autumn Series 5 Beautiful Hills

June

- 5/6/7 HB Queens Birthday WOA Champs
 13 WHO Kioreroa Road
 P CDOA OY5
 16 WACO Auckland Secondary Schools Champs - Otakanini Topu
 20 A OY1 Pot Luck map, entry SH16 Rimmers Road. (NB change from Deaks Head)
 27 CM OY2 Taurangaruru

July

- 4 NW Promotion Onepoto
 9/10 NW North Island Secondary School Champs Turkey Ridge
 11 NW OY3 Turkey Ridge
 18 WHO Winstones
 19-23 World Masters Orienteering Championships, Aarhus, Denmark
 25 A OY4 Deaks Head, SH16 entry Rimmers Road. (NB Change from Pot Luck map)
 26-30 O-ringen event, Halmstad, Sweden
 31 Closing date for discount on entries, World Masters Orienteering Champs, NZ
 Entry forms available: WMOC 2000, PO Box 180, Feilding, ph 06 323 0803 (day), 06 323 8987 (evenings), fax 06 323 0822, email WMOC2000@xtra.co.nz.
 31- August 8 Highland '99, Scottish 6 day, Inverness

August

- 8 NW OY 5 Otakanini Topu
 15 WHO Mairtown
 22 WACO OY 6

September

- 5 WHO OY 7 Omu Creek
 T Club Event – Opepe W
 19 HAM OY 8 & CDOA OY 6
 25/26 CM Auckland Champs Kariotahi, Short O Champs, Waiuku

October

- 3 NW Ralph King Score Champs, Beautiful Hills, Woodhill
 2-3 Canterbury Champs - Christchurch

9/10	T	CDOA Champs - Taupo
17	CM	OY9 Four Seasons
23/24/25	NW	Labour Weekend NATIONALS
27	A	Auckland Primary Schools Champs
31		Closing date entries World Masters Orienteering Champs NZ
		Entry forms available from WMOC 2000, PO Box 180, Feilding, ph 06 323 0803 (day), 06 323 8987 (evenings), fax 06 323 0822, email WMOC2000@xtra.co.nz.

November

7	A	Auckland Relays, Deaks Head
13-14		SI Champs - Dunedin
27/28		CDOA OY 7/8

December

28		World Masters Orienteering Championships pre-event, Otakanini Topu, Woodhill Forest
29		World Masters pre-event, Taupo

January 2000

1-2		Millennium Event Feilding and All comers public race, Manawatu
3		World Masters Orienteering Championships, Manawatu, model event, opening ceremony
4		WMOC qualifying race #1
5		WMOC qualifying race #2
7		WMOC A and B finals
10		WMOC post-event, Christchurch
12		WMOC post-event, Dunedin

AUCKLAND ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

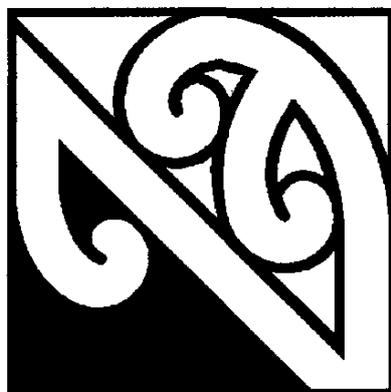


The AOA will hold an extra ordinary meeting on Sunday 25 April at 1 pm, following the Autumn Series 2 event.

The business of the meeting is:

- 1. To wind up formally the Auckland Orienteering Association Inc.**
- 2. To distribute the funds held by the Auckland Orienteering Association Inc.**

NORTHWEST NEWSHOUND



I've yet to make it to a summer series event, but Geoff has come home describing 70+ minutes of running around and over Mt Eden as suitable Kaweka Challenge training material!

NW people have obviously been getting outdoors this summer - Les Paver traversed the summit of Mt Ruapehu, Geoff Mead and Shaun Bowler climbed Mt Earnslaw (Aspiring National Park), the Meads did lots of mountain biking, walking and kayaking in the South Island, a very fit looking Mark Lawson attended the WOC squad training camp where Glen Middleton did the cooking and Marquita Gelderman was spotted tramping in the Orongorongos.

We farewell Paul and Erica Smale and family who have moved to Australia ...but there is a potential new member - Gay and Rob Ambler are now grandparents!

NWOC has a new, or rather recycled, committee, with Stan Foster at the helm as president, Dave Middleton as club captain, Jill Smithies as secretary and Mark L and Rolf Wagner retaining their positions. They'll appreciate all offers of assistance at our events this coming year, especially at the Nationals in October.

About 23 members enjoyed a great day out in the Waitakere ranges on 7 February - from the miniature train ride via a 700m long tunnel to the dam, to a picnic at the Cascades and bush runs of varying lengths, depending on how seriously we took our training. A few souls then departed for a round of golf; is another challenge against WACO in the offing? Thank you Gay for organising everything.

Inspired by the success of today's jaunt another social day out is planned for Sunday 7 March at Tawharanui Regional Park. Everyone is welcome. Several families are camping for the weekend at Tawharanui (book via ARC Parksline) while others will rendezvous at the day carpark at 10 am Sunday for walking, running, swimming, snorkelling. Bring togs and a picnic.

Lisa Mead

445 4555

AUCKLAND O CHAT



Richard Bolt has climbed Mt Cook. We understand he went up one way and down another, just like the grand old Duke of York. When we asked Father Clive how he felt about such a feat he said he was pleased that Richard made it back. We understand that Helen agrees.

Selwyn Palmer, asked for highlights for this column, told us that he had tripped over a fence during the first summer series event. When asked why this should interest our readers he said, 'Well, it interested me.'

When Jane Counsell was asked if it was true that Jonathon had won the New Zealand 35 to 39 National Sprint Triathlon in December, she didn't know. 'He runs in and wins so many events that it goes in one ear and out the other,' she explained. John tells us the event consisted of a 750 m swim, 20 km cycling and a 25km run which he took out in an hour. Hardly worth doing really.

Douglas Kwan's setting of the Mt. Eden summer series event was so good that even John Powell was impressed. Andy Brewis made similar comments about Sarah Beaumont's ability to create interesting courses from the Self's Farm map. And last week Katherine Bolt followed with interesting variations on the much-trodden Auckland Domain environs. It's good to have courses set by young minds with fresh approaches to the maps.

David Stewart carried all before him at the Turkey Trot in New Plymouth, beating his father Alistair and a-lack-a-day Mark Roberts. Oh how the mighty have fallen!

Auckland Club now holds the Inter Club Golf Championship. Insider information tells us that this was not because many of Auckland's opponents could not find the course. In truth, Counties Manukau threw the event as an apology for the way they treated Auckland at the relays.

Mark Roberts, having decided to take his preparations for the Turkey Trot seriously, discovered that he had left training a little late. To compensate he settled on a short term approach: huge carbohydrate dinner, huge carbohydrate breakfast, fresh shoes, fresh socks and a fresh banana at the map change. The approach worked well; for the first time Mark finished the event. His support team are not so sure, they suspect they may have hurt several runners defending the banana.

Rumour has it that John and Selwyn have swapped some of their jobs. John Powell 631 0204 is now looking after manning (personning?) events (ie he organises the controller, planner, co-ordinator) while Selwyn Palmer (625 7798) is looking after controls.

We have two new A grade controllers in the club, Selwyn Palmer and Rob Jessop. Scott Vennell has put himself forward for certification as a B grade controller, working towards A grade. We need more, become a god, enrol in those controller schools.

Andy Brewis

575 6989

MARK YOUR DIARIES NOW : SUMMER SERIES SOCIAL SESSION

Thursday 18 March 1999

There's to be a social event to celebrate the end of summer and to congratulate the juniors who set the Summer Series courses. This will be in the early evening and all AOC members are invited.

It will be held at the Stewart family's home on the edge of the Tamaki map; some dusk orienteering as well as the barbecue could be on the menu. More details available soon. Meanwhile put a ring around 18 March.

AUCKLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL CHAMPS

Listen very carefully for this will be said only once: all students who want to be considered for the ASB Sports Awards must compete in four out of six events in the Auckland Secondary Schools series, which start with the Summer Series event at Carrington UNITEC on 24 February. The ASB awards are well worth going for, as apart from the gear bags, certificate and the kudos you get for winning, there's a Big Night Out for the presentations.

Now to the SS Champs. After Carrington there are two events within a week, the first on Tuesday 9 March at One Tree Hill and then the following Sunday 14 March at Muriwai. The New Zealand champs are being held in Dunedin on 15-16 April. The cost of air fares and bus travel (cheapest education air fare is \$366) is mean few Aucklanders can go, although Graham Peters reports that he has had nods of assent from some. Then there's the Auckland SS champs organised by WACO on the Otakanini Topu map on 16 June. The North Island SS champs are being held in the July holidays 9-10 July, organised by WHO at Turkey Ridge.

In previous years the SS events have all been organised by one school (guess?) but this year the load is shared out, with Birkenhead and Kings each organising two events, and Kelston and Macleans sharing the organising of the other two.

The quality of schools orienteering is still great, but the quantity not so. However, thanks to Ian Suckling, Auckland Grammar are coming on board this year, to join Birkenhead, Kelston Girls, Macleans College, Kings College and Pukekohe High.

COUNTIES-MANUKAU NEWS



The Counties Manukau AGM was held at Ross and Linda Brighthouse's residence on 3 February. It was well attended with one major change to the committee: John Briffett has stood down as secretary after two years and has been replaced by Aidon Nelson. Our thanks go to John for a job well done. John still controls the purse strings though and Rob Hattie retains the presidency for another year.

The junior squad training camp was held in New Plymouth during those hot windy January days. CMOC members who attended were Marijka Currie, and Emma and Kieran Nelson, all of whom did well competing in their respective grades through '998. Thanks to coaches and parents who assisted.

The development squad camp was held in Taupo over five days. It was only attended by one CMOC member, Graeme Hattie. He reports back that training was very intense but enjoyed by all. Thanks to all senior and elite orienteers who gave their time at the camp. I'm sure the training will be reflected in the results of upcoming events. Only gripe was the size of the bugs that inhabited the cabins at night and had a bite severe enough to motivate one into vigorously shaking down of the bedclothes, and sleeping with the window shut for the remainder of the camp, with a silent promise to bring some insect repellent to any future camps.

The Turkey Trot, held annually in New Plymouth, was well attended by keen Counties Manukau members. The skies opened up with torrential rain on Saturday evening which over night raised the river levels considerably. This encouraged the majority of orienteers into taking a longer but safer route choice across the bridge. The courses were excellent and enjoyed by all, though there was mention in the results of one overseas visitor who was so shattered when he finished there was some doubt as to whether he would compete here again.

Counties Manukau is holding a training day for club members on 11 March at 5.30 pm. The venue to be notified. If you haven't been contacted yet please call me on 299 6394. This has to be beneficial to everyone hoping to do well this year.

The first of the Autumn series will be held at Huriwai Station on 18 April. This is limestone country located a short distance south of Port Waikato. The even will be signposted from the Tuakau Bridge. Evidently the station is well used by TV film crews for overseas commercials. The scenery is breathtaking and well worth the trip from Auckland.

I shall take this opportunity to thank Shaun for having done a marvellous job editing the magazine. It was very informative and a pleasure to read.

The next club meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 March at 7.30 pm at Lyndsay and Bev Shuker's residence in Waiuku. All CMOC members are welcome.

Rob Hattie
299 6394

Auckland Area Technical Committee

I'd like some help in my job as AOA Technical Officer, so I'd like to form a very informal "committee". The only membership qualification is having access to email. (It helps if you live north of the Bombays and are a member of an orienteering club.)

If you would like me to add your name to the mailing list so that you can contribute, please email me right away on nmr@iprolink.co.nz.

I'm really sorry to those who would like to join in but don't have email. I will publish interesting issues in the newsletter, so you can always buttonhole me at events if you want to contribute. I'm looking for prompt feedback on a variety of issues, and email is demonstrably the best way to do that.

The most important aspect of this "committee" approach is that issues are aired to a wider audience before decisions need to be made, and this democratic approach will mean that any decisions which are made will be legitimised and have broader acceptance.

Autumn Series Prescription

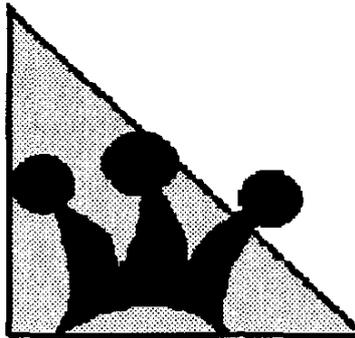
The first subject to discuss is the Autumn Series. It's not strictly under the "authority" of the AOA Technical Officer, but someone has to sort it out, and no-one seems to mind if it is me. It seems appropriate for the course prescription to be much the same as the spring series last year. 3 red, 1 orange, 1 yellow, 1 white. I'd prefer 2 orange, making the prescription the same as the OY series, but we do have to compromise somewhere. any opinions?

MARK
NMR@IPROLINK.CO.NZ

YVETTE CHOOSES KIWI PARTNER FOR MARATHON EVENT

Yvette Hague, winner of three World Cup orienteering events for Great Britain, has married a Kiwi. He is Joel Baker, they wed in November and honeymooned in New Zealand (did we know this?). Joel, a fellow geologist, met Yvette through work and they've known each other three years. They are now living in Denmark where Joel has a five year contract.

WEIRD AND WACO



W.A.C.O

The AGM

Well, WACO has finally had its 1998 AGM (held on Waitangi Day). For those of you who didn't make it the AGM lasted 25 minutes. Beat that!!

Stuart's president's report was highly entertaining for all present. I won't publish it, but perhaps you could ask him to read it to you privately. Of note was the fact that the two page report did not mention WACO or orienteering once.

Our new committee has been elected for 1999. It is:

President: Philip Wood

Secretary: Melissa Edwards

Treasurer: Antony Barr

Secondary Schools Officer: Fraser Mills

Committee: Stuart Barr, Jamie Stewart, Claire Rankin, Rachel Smith, Michal Glowacki, David Barr, and probably one or two other names which I can't remember off the top of my head.

The new mailing address is: WACO, 11 Viewland Ave, Royal Oak, Auckland, and the phone number is 634 8104. This is an 09 number for those out of Auckland.

WACO News

Madeleine Barr and Shaun Collins have tied the knot as many of you already know. Many WACO members attended the medieval wedding and toasted the happy couple and the bridesmaids and the best man and the groomsman and the parents and the grandparents .etc.

Mr and Mrs Collins are now leaving us! They may have already left depending on the date of publication of this magazine. They are moving to London and won't be back for 18 months. We will miss you!!

Other club members who are moving:

Stuart Barr who has gone to Wellington for the year

David Barr who is moving to Dunedin to study

Brent Edwards who is living in Porirua, near Wellington, for 6 months while he studies at Police College

Other members will also be moving houses when the university year begins.

A group of WACO members will be competing in the Kaweka Challenge in Hawkes Bay on 20-21 February. The results will be in the next magazine.

The first committee meeting for 1999 will be held on 28 February. This is the day after the all night relays. The time will be advised.

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year!

Melissa

634 8104

ROLL ON AUTUMN

What did you do all summer? I don't want to hear about the long days at the beach, the yachting or the surfing. It's beyond me these days. For me the sun is too hot, the days too long and I become a slug evading bright light and slipping gently into a torpor watching cricket. Shame on me, no park events, no Masters, nothing to report, just an early a.m. call to do a few kms before the sun beats me to a pulp.

Living out in the sticks precludes me from those long summer evening park runs. I waffle around our local golf course dodging from tree to tree, imagining every depression holds a control, or even a bunker may sprout a little flag. But the thrill is missing, no run against time, no social meet with olds friends. Occasionally I say "Hello" to a seagull and come home to fall on my couch with an iced drink and renew my friendship with Dion Nash and Co.

Mowing the lawn ...well, WACO kids won't know about that and why should they? They are out there setting and vetting and running park events, which is as it should be. I find mowing a great therapy. I get up early. You an hear that recurring theme? I drive my neighbours mad, whirring through the long seed heads while they lie abed and curse me, gently, I hope. A few years ago I did the whole lawn in one go like running a five km course, but now I divide it up into three smaller efforts with time out for an orange drink or a coffee and reading the paper to make sure the world is managing without my input. This way I can feel as if I toughen up the adipose tissue and rid my ever-burgeoning thighs of cellulite, or whatever that latest invention is called.

So January idled away and I am now in the throes of planning a long car trip to Dunedin with my daughter from Oz. I see Dunedin has a two-day in March. Well, you never know ...if I can pull myself from the bosom of my family, and if the weather is perfect, not too hot or cold, and the hills medium, and the courses set for W100, I may be lured into the O race once more.

W100

SUMMER SERIES UPDATE

The Stewart family continue organising the Summer Series to give us both enjoyment and exercise. Joanna says they are particularly pleased with the enthusiasm of the first-time orienteers who have come to the Summer Series and who keep coming back. Some are seeking information on the forthcoming forest events. A new display stand purchased by AOC enables brochures and other printed information to be available for pick-up. For info on the final few events of the Summer Series phone the Stewarts 09 575 5695.

To the editor

Shaun Collins in his November editorial stated that "If we (WACO) had to make a map we would get the money from that event". I queried the financial viability of this statement in the December issue. The absence of a response to the query from Shaun, or Stu Barr in WACO news, suggests that the statement was merely an editorial musing and not a real possibility.

The experience of the Auckland club is that it is likely unrealistic to recoup all expenses at a single event and pay half of the takings to the course planner and controller. For example, the adult event fee for the last AOA classic championship event would have had to have been of the order of \$80. Only the very committed would enter at that price.

Nevertheless, in a lengthy and stimulating editorial Shaun appropriately draws our attention to the emerging significance of paying for the work done in place of voluntary labour. Furthermore, Selwyn Palmer, in his December interview with Shaun, suggests that the time might be right for the commercial organisation of some events "if participants are prepared to pay".

Preparedness to pay is, I believe, an issue for the orienteering community. Orienteers have developed a set of expectations about what is a reasonable event fee based upon free labour from club members. These expectations are unrealistic for events which have substantial financial costs.

Club committees are going to have to be proactive in informing members and helping them to be more realistic about event fees. In particular, the \$8 fee for a senior at an OY will be insufficient for the Auckland club to recover the costs of producing the Pot Luck map. I will, therefore, propose a fee of \$12 for the Pot Luck OY at the next club committee meeting. Yes, only \$12. Where else could you get so much fun for so few dollars?

John Powell

An open letter to Dave Middleton following an NZOF Council meeting.

Dear Dave

This letter follows my attendance at a NZOF council meeting on 13 February as stand-in for your first meeting ever as a council member. As you requested, these notes are intended to aid you towards understanding the council's structure and functions and to introduce you to any major issues faced by the council.

The council consists of four area members and the NZOF executive, president, secretary and treasurer. The executive meet and/or communicate to the extent they need to run the NZOF. The secretary and the treasurer receive honorariums that are hard earned.

The council meets formally twice a year, but may have mini meetings at major events etc. When asked its key roles the council defined them to be:

- (a) to keep the executive honest
- (b) policy development
- (c) to communicate NZOF issues to the membership.

It interested me that this latter role was defined as communication to rather than dialogue with the membership, indicating I suspect that dialogue was seen to be the responsibility of the individual council members. A dangerous premise perhaps.

The executive exists to get things done and to ensure that committees and officers function effectively. Before doing this it has to deal with the mountains of paperwork it faces as an internationally linked sport. It also has to meet the planning and monitoring requirements of fund providers such as the Hillary Commission. Reporting nominally to the council, but effectively the responsibility of the executive, are the Publicity officer, the Technical committee, the Selectors convenor, the Statistician, the Primary and Secondary schools co-ordinators, the National Coaching director, the National O Squad, the Development Squad, Uncle Tom Cobbley and all, each of which has to work effectively if the wheels are to be kept turning. Some of these 'reports' are direct and some such as the National O Squad are less dependent, but all at times impose a load on the executive.

The executive are committed, know the business and know what they are trying to achieve. None the less they are frustrated by an inability to meet their goals. There is a healthy acceptance that the Council has failed to project to the membership a clear understanding of the value it adds to orienteering and alarm that it failed last year to spend the majority of the funds it budgeted for the development of the sport.

The President acknowledges that the involvement of many orienteers, himself included, in setting up WMOC 2000 has contributed to this. I suspect that the problem is deeper rooted and may well be structural. For several years the executive have advocated that consideration be given to the appointment of a paid executive director. The cost of doing so has held it back from making a firm recommendation that an appointment be made. The issue is to be debated at one of the seminars at the NZOF AGM on 24 April, but eventually it will be the Council that has to deal with the issue.

If we accept the premise that the current structure cannot cope with the workload, one must conclude that either manning levels should be built up or the work load reduced. Manning levels could be increased by the appointment of an executive director (a major cost for so small a sport) or perhaps by distributing the work load more widely. For example, interface with the Hillary Commission or perhaps management of the sub committees could be passed to non executive members of the Council or to members of an expanded executive. Alternatively the NZOF could simply cut out functions that are of marginal benefit or can be handled at club level, leaning down to fewer key functions.

With both the secretary and the treasurer showing signs of over-load and the Graham Teahan's imminent resignation as president (WMOC and NZOF are just too much he has found), I am sure that you will find that a structural and functional review of NZOF will be the number one issue.

Good luck in your new role; you will find them a good bunch to work with.

Regards

Andy Brewis

SHAUN TELLS ALL

Here we are on the start line with Shaun Collins, recently retired and decently married president of WACO.

Q. Shaun, tell us who you are, where you live, how do you live, what you do to live.

I am Shaun. From room 12. The cat is fat. I am going on a holiday. I am 24 years old and now happily married (that sounds scary) to Madeleine Barr from the Barr clan. I live or used to live in Auckland for the last four years and before that in the Waikato. I work for a large accounting firm (Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu - with a silent "u") as an accountant in the assurance and advisory department. I am moving over to work in London for the same firm for 18 months starting 1 March 1999. It will be nice and good.

Q. When and how did you start orienteering? Why?

I started orienteering in 1989. Dad had heard about this new sport that someone at his work did and decided to take us along to try it. We used to do harriers and other running so this was a great new way of running and having fun because running on the roads was heaps boring. Still is!

Q. What is it about orienteering that keeps you at it?

There are lots of things that keep me orienteering - The challenge (mentally and physically), the huge social side of the sport, some of the people, the bulk funding, the rigidly set season, which aids the development of our top athletes, getting dirty, the lack of oldie bullshit politics in the sport. It is all great.

Q. What is your biggest challenge in orienteering? What's the biggest struggle?

My biggest challenge in orienteering of recent is getting motivated. Especially over the last year. This has been common for many of the young orienteers that I know. But once orienteering my biggest problem is discipline. I usually run too fast and therefore lose contact with the map. The technique that usually gets me through is a "run fast in the right way and then relocate" technique which works for a majority of the time but fails miserably sometimes. I am always working on making myself more disciplined and staying in contact with the map.

Q. How can orienteering be improved in Auckland? Nationally?

In Auckland I believe things are happening in the right way. There seems to be a good club spirit thing happening recently which is to be encouraged and something I believe our club had the monopoly on for a while. I believe that we should be more in the public's face. We need to spend some money on promotion of events (summer series for instance). When I was in the Hamilton club, we spent quite a bit on advertising and the rest was sponsored. It was on the radio, and leaflets were plastered everywhere. Maybe we need someone to concentrate solely on the promotion of the sport in Auckland. We need to think big and bold to create a public awareness of the sport.

Nationally?....I think that the whole NZOF thing needs a shake up. At the moment I struggle to see/hear....its hard to explain, but it seems stagnant. Hopefully after the NZOF makes some money off the Vet Champs, they can spend some of it on promotion, etc as mentioned for Auckland. I just think it needs a rethink.

Q. What do we need to do to increase the profile of orienteering?

See above in previous question. We need to get into the public's face and scream "ORIENTEERING".

Q. What bugs you most about orienteering and the orienteering scene?

All of the politics and people who think they are doing good for the sport but are not thinking of everyone. We do not all agree that everyone must wear brown!, or that the season should be then, or controllers should be god.

Q. What is the one thing about orienteering and the orienteering scene you love most?

The social side - with everyone having to travel and stay together it is great fun and much socialising.

Q. If you won \$1m in lotto, what would you spend it on?

Uhhhhmmmmmm. Lots. Including some new socks, some fresh fruit, Subaru WRX Impreza and stuff.

Q. What's the funniest thing that has happened to you at an orienteering event?

During an orienteering camp once at Muriwai, us coaches were making a video and I had to do a scene where I ran along the sand dunes. During this run I happened upon a couple in the dunes making whoopee. I don't know who was more embarrassed but after the initial shock I just jumped over them and kept on running.

Q. What's the worst thing that has happened?

Getting a blister.

Q. What would you do if you weren't orienteering?

I would be in a rally car doing races around New Zealand until an international sponsor spotted me and then would race the World rally champs.

Q. Phil Wood is the new president of WACO. How will this influence the character of the club?

Hopefully the club will become alive again. Last year it had quite a slow year and was pretty dull and quiet. Phil is really keen to raise the profile of WACO and reduce taxes. He also believes in free rubbish collection and reduced rates. It will be good for the club.

Q. Now let's get down to the serious stuff. Do you believe in pre-destination? That is to say, would you have met Madeleine without orienteering?

Who knows? Not me. We did live in the same city (Hamilton) and there are only 120,000 people there so we may have met.

Q. Are bad orienteers paying for their past sins?

I believe that bad (as in naughty) orienteers are actually the goods ones that we need to encourage to stay. The good orienteers tend to be the boring element of the sport that is of no value to me.

Q. Who would make a better orienteer, Bill or Hilary Clinton?

Apparently Bill is quite cunning, so he would be the best at cunning running which is what orienteering is about. But Hilary would be good too as she is very patient and even after the hugest cockup would remain calm and collected.

REALISTIC SCORE

Greg Barbour was in line to have a hat trick of wins in the Scottish Score Championships held last November but it wasn't to be. Greg, reported in CompassSport, says:

"I enjoy score events as they have another dimension, although the navigation is a bit easier as you often take controls from an easy direction. This course was poor as the start was at one end of the map, thus everyone was forced to go the same direction.

"At the start you must have a pattern to get everything, until you can see that this is not realistic."

NO CHANGE IN DATE

Dear Cassius:

Are you still working on the Y Zero K problem? This change from BC to AD is giving us a lot of headaches and we haven't much time left. I don't know how people will cope with working the wrong way around. Having been working happily downwards forever, now we have to start thinking upwards.

You would think that someone would have thought of it earlier and not left it to us to sort it all out at this last minute.

I spoke to Caesar the other evening. He was livid that Julius hadn't done something about it when he was sorting out the calendar. He said he could see why Brutus turned nasty. We called in Consultus, but he simply said that continuing downwards using minus BC won't work and as usual charged a fortune for doing nothing useful. Surely we will not have to throw out all our hardware and start again? Macrohard will make yet another fortune out of this I suppose.

The money lenders are paranoid of course! They have been told that all usury rates will invert and they will have to pay their clients to take out loans. Its an ill wind

As for myself, I just can't see the sand in an hourglass flowing upwards.

We have heard that there are three wise men in the East who have been working on the problem, but unfortunately they won't arrive until it's all over.

I have heard that there are plans to stable all horses at midnight at the turn of the year as there are fears that they will stop and try to run backwards, causing immense damage to chariots and possible loss of life.

Some say the world will cease to exist at the moment of transition.

Anyway, we are still continuing to work on this blasted Y zero K problem. I will send a parchment to you if anything further develops. If you have any ideas please let me know.

Plutonium

Translated from Roman scroll dated 1BC

The AUCKLAND ORIENTEER...

...is the monthly newsletter of the Auckland Orienteering Association, combining WACO and the Auckland, Counties-Manukau, NorthWest Orienteering Clubs. It is edited (for the moment) by Jill Brewis, AOC (575 6989, fax 575 6916) and distributed by Lisa Mead, NWOC (445 4555). It is published at the beginning of every month except January.

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If you can't supply on disk I can type contributions if necessary.

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