

THE FORTH COLUMNIST

Issue No. 112 Jan/ Feb 1996



We Wish You a Merry Christmas

- Ed.

FVO COMMITTEE 1995

PRESIDENT	Jon Oxley	24 Eastcroft Drive POLMONT Falkirk FK2 0SU from 26/5 (01324) 718428
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President's Column

We are less than half way through December, but already I am sitting here full of Christmas cheer - yes it was our office Christmas lunch today; we've had the FVO Dinner Dance, and the AGM is fast approaching. Oh yes, there's a bloke in a red suit coming round sometime soon - or is he?!



Thanks to Claire Allison who organised the Dinner Dance at the Sword Hotel, to those of you who provided prizes for the raffle, and to all of you who came. It was one of the best FVO Dinner Dances for a few years now. I hope one of you will thoughtlessly volunteer your selection of miniature Christmas Trees as prizes for the raffle next year!

The Scottish Champs are also approaching fast, and we will be looking for key volunteers to help at the Relay race on Sunday 26 May. FVO will probably make a small loss on the relay event itself primarily because of the high cost of the map, although the budget is conservative - see next issue. We have aimed to recoup the entire cost of the map from this one event, since South Achray will be subject to further minor forestry operations, and we have recently printed South Achray maps for the Forest Enterprise's new permanent course - thanks to Sandy Sinclair for his perseverance in seeing that one through. On the subject of permanent courses, it will be interesting to see how plans for Scotland's first Amateur Gardeners' Centre mature. This new facility is to be developed at Plean Country Park, one of our most recent, and highly praised additions to the FVO map stock. Hopefully our good relationship with the District Ranger Service will ensure continued use of the area.

The new Director General of the Forestry Commission - David Bills - was recently on record saying how much he was "looking forward to the pursuits he enjoyed back in New Zealand, particularly orienteering". Let's hope he has a favourable impact upon the sport. Sadly one of our best known and most prolific members is set to leave the club. Dave Peel is moving to warmer climes (well, Sheffield), and is hoping to set up his own business. I'd like to thank Dave for all the time and effort he has put into the club; his incessant enthusiasm and dedication will be missed. We wish him the very best of luck with his new venture.

Finally, please do not forget the FVO AGM this January. This is your opportunity to have a say in the running of the club, hurl brick-bats or compliments at the outgoing committee, and generally goad someone else to stand for the committee. Don't forget that if you wish to see the club's constitution altered, then you will need to lodge written details with the club secretary at least 21 days in advance.

It only remains for me to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Look out for FVO Festive Frolics to work off your turkey!

Jonathan

SOCIAL SCENE

Alternative Christmas Fare!

CHRISTMAS DAY

Come along and work up an appetite for that sumptuous Christmas Dinner!

Come along to the Sheriffmuir Car Park at Dumyat and enjoy (?)

a Run / Jog / Walk / Stroll / Saunter / Crawl up Dumyat.

The Camel Train leaves the Car Park at 11.00 am. (There's nothing much on the Telly anyway!)

Skiing

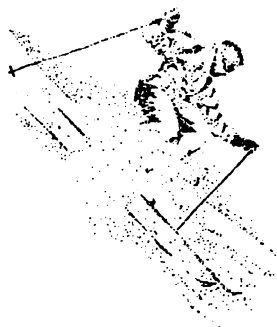
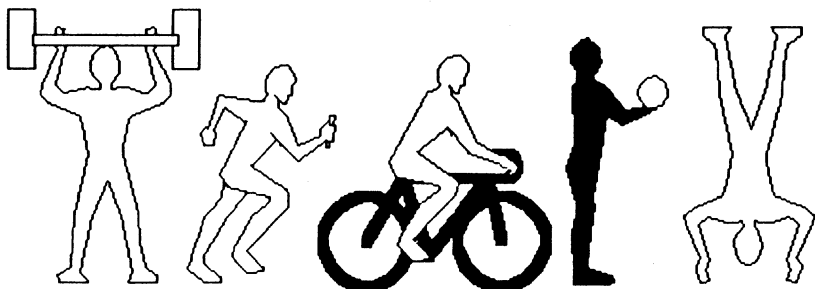
If anyone wants to join in the fun next session

(Mondays 8.00 - 9.00 pm at Fir Park)

Contact Fraser Purves (01259 - 750264)

Indoor Training

The Weekly Sweat Session re-starts as soon as the schools re-open after the break. Come along to Lornshill Academy on Tuesdays 6.00 - 7.00 pm and fight the Christmas Flab!



Secretary's Spot

It's time for the Annual FVO Holiday Guide:

We've had some details through the Post recently for Summer Holidays!

These include:

*22/7/96 - 26/7/96
at Karlstad*

O-RINGEN

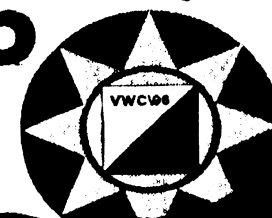
5-dagars

1996



**6 Days SWISSO WEEK
Orienteering
96**

*August 3-10
at Brunnen*



ORIENTEERING

VETERANS WORLD CUP 96

*8-12 April 1996
in Murcia, Spain*

If you would like details, contact Susan on (01259) 213310

CHALLENGE!

Nice to see some signs of friendly rivalry over the Club Champs -

I, Simon, am going to beat
you, Kenneth, in the 1996
FVO club champs.

AND I KENNETH, HEREBY PLEDGE
TO RUN YOU INTO THE GROUND
IN THE 1996 FVO CHAMPS.

Kenneth Porter

In Your Dreams

Simon Finch

WITNESSES:- Finch

Gareth B-J

We look forward to next year's Champs!

Club Championships

Course 1

Very Junior Men & Women

Fiona Finch	30.41
Ross Wood	38.20
Erica Bullen	40.00
Inga Bullen(n/c)	40.55

Course 2

No entries

Course 4

Women / Veteran Men

Ted Finch	54.50
Hazel Dean	58.35
Brian Bullen	59.35
Cathy Tilbrook	69.20
Alison Oxley	69.45
David Cooke	70.16
Peggy Chambers	72.27
John Brown	74.50
Doug Wood	Retd

Course 3

Junior Men / Veteran Women

Kenneth Preston	38.15
Neil Brown	42.45
Maureen Brown	52.10
Chris Wood	57.03
Mary Matthews	57.46
Hilda Astbury	66.45
Simon Finch	74.25

Course 5

Men

Steve Nicholson	50.20
Dave Peel	57.34
Fraser Purves	63.50
Jenny James (n/c)	74.00
Jon Oxley	74.03
Neil Kitching	100.02
Mark Grant	104.30
Martin Light	121.47
Doug Flint	137.45

MAPS - AMNESTY

Will those of you out there who still have maps, please return these as soon as possible to Gareth B-J so they can be checked to produce our 1996 Wednesday Evening Event Calendar (and just as important, so we can value them for the Accounts!)

TALES from the FAR SIDE - Orienteering in a Foreign Land
Lindsey sent me this description of life with Bristol University O Club - Ed

CUOC Sprint-O and Alc-O

A very long day started about 5.30 am for my early morning jog(Well, I walked and yawned a lot!!) down to the University Union where we all collapsed into the 7.00 am bus, which duly headed off to Epping Forest. Despite getting stuck in a traffic jam for half an hour, we did eventually make it to the event, only to find absolutely nothing happening! We were reliably informed that at this time last year (i.e. about 30 mins before the start) the controls were still being set out.

Eventually, en masse we left for the Start, each competitor huddled in big thick jackets as it was only about 3°C.

As the men had the honour of starting first, I got my first sight of a Mass Start.

The minute was counted down.

Each orienteer had his foot on a map, and crouched into an 'elite' starting position . . . 5 . . . 4 . . . 3 . . . 2 . . . 1 Every one grabbed their maps and bolted into the forest. A couple of men were left standing there looking puzzled . . . "Where did everybody go??"

I suppose I had better explain the setup - you start in the middle of a figure-of-eight, and your course can then go in any one of four directions. This made the start a rather dangerous thing to watch as there was quite a high chance of being run over by an over-enthusiastic orienteer.

Finally it was the Women's first round. I found my map and stood on it (It seemed to be the thing to do) and at last we started. In Sprint-O the best way to win would probably be to hire a decoy to run really confidently off in completely the wrong direction, so that everyone would follow and get lost! It was highly entertaining to run in a small area of forest with about

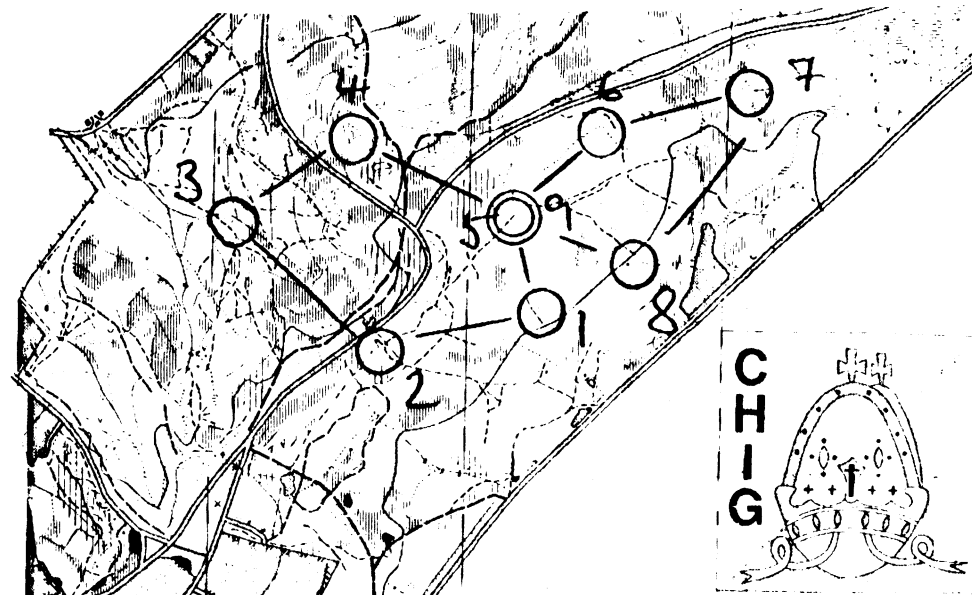
sixty people following one another (whether or not they were going in the right direction!).

Unfortunately I didn't finish in the top 16 so I only got into the 'B' Final (sniff). However, I did get two runs of about 25 minutes of extremely unusual orienteering!

After both B-Finals, we all returned to the car park to watch the 'A' Finals. It was the same format as the first rounds, but there were only four competitors, each running in a different direction - extremely entertaining to watch them all scatter at the start. The next event on the menu was the Alc-O. This was a course with about 8 controls, each with many piles of beer for consumption. Not all competitors took part, as some of us did our Alc-O in the pub, in front of a fire, while watching the rugby! Afterwards, the Alc-Orienteeers staggered back, and we all headed up to Cambridge for our Champagne reception (well, fizzy wine reception), a meal and a 'Bop' as they call it down here. It would have been unlikely that there was a sober orienteer in the city that night!

However, don't worry - the reputation of Orienteers is still untarnished, as Cambridge was still standing when we left!

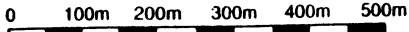
LJS



TECHNICAL TIPS - NIGHT-O

This month's Technical Tip is from our Night Navigator
- Eddie (the Owl) Finch.

Imagine the scene - a balmy evening with a bright clear moon sending its beams to light up the forest paths so much for the imagination ! The stark reality - a freezing night in November, cloud down to your ankles and driving freezing rain (MUCH more

like Scottish Orienteering!) 

Ted reported that he set off with high hopes (and a big torch) from the start, only to be met by an impenetrable wall of cloud which obscured just about everything.

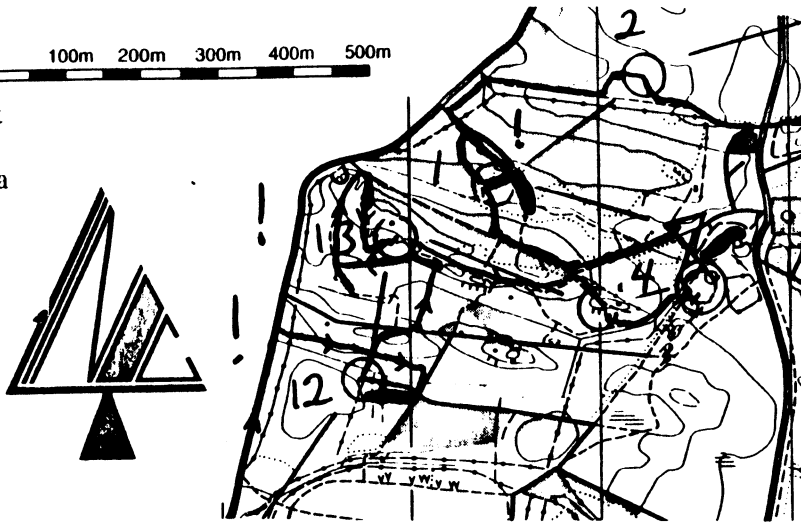
As you can maybe make out from his course, (Kindly reproduced here with his permission) he eventually got the hang of things after having circumnavigated the first control a few times. We think he may have been getting a bit tired after control No 11 (well it was by now well past his bed-time!) Close examination of his superb route choice into No 12, and his attempt at a detailed survey of the area around No 13 (it was needing re-mapped anyway!) leads us to the conclusion that either

- he was using a blindfold
- he was in the final stages of exposure
- the control was in the wrong place
- he should give up night-O!

So this month's competition is to supply two suitable one-line comments which Ted may have made:

- on circumnavigating Control No 1 for the second time
- on his attempts at locating lucky (for some!) No 13.

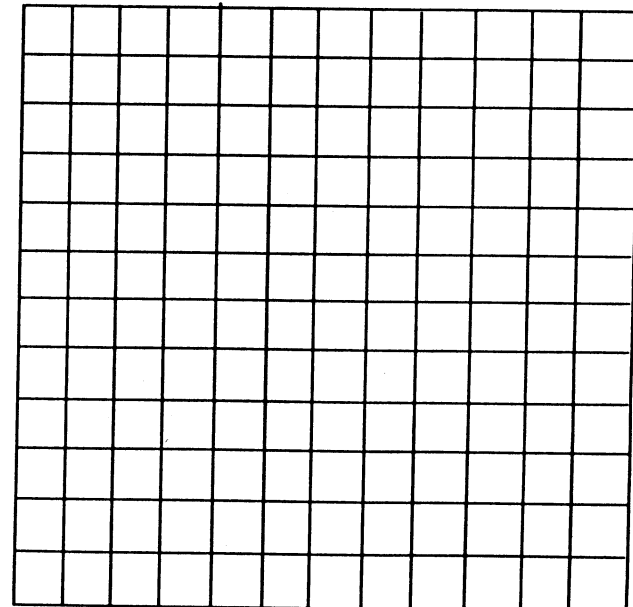
No offensive language is permitted, and Ted is not barred from entering the contest!



Clueless?

Our fiendish crossword compiler devised these tricky clues, but became too drunk to draw up the crossword. Can you deduce the FVO areas to which he was referring? (as an extra Christmas bonus, see if you can fit the words into a Crossword!)

- American monetary reserve
- What ouch?
- Is it in Nepal?
- Noel - 1 + torn rag
- Trees underground?
- Has he done it all? No he excelled!
- Christian house
- Gin & tonic here?
- Turn it over on the first of May
- Northern Scotsman hails Raymond
- Builder of New Town names place of worship



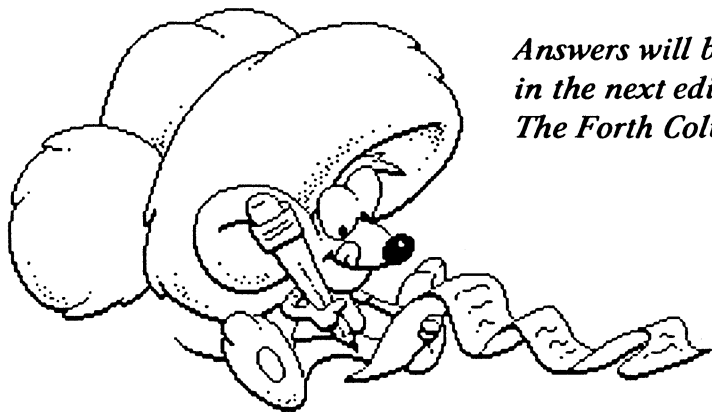
Quintessential Quistmas Quiz



1. What was A.A. Milne's first name?
2. Who had a recent hit with "Big River"?
3. What does scuba stand for?
4. Which presenter hosted Blue Peter alongside John Noakes and Peter Purvis? (hint: first name not Val!)
5. On which Stirling Street is Oddbins?
6. What time on Monday is Eastenders on BBC1?
7. Give a more common name for iron pyrites?
8. Which registration letter is given to cars of no determined age, kit cars, etc.?
9. Which festive presenter hosts Telly Addicts?
10. Who wrote the Braveheart novel?
11. Off the coast of which continent is Lanzarote?
12. Who is the Secretary of State for Scotland?
13. Magpies are a common sight, but of which bird family are they a member?
14. In which US state is Death Valley?
15. Whose song was used to launch Microsoft Windows 95?
16. Which FVO member recently appeared in the Sun newspaper?
17. Who now owns the former Digital microhip factory at South Queensferry?
18. Which 'vital' link road was opened on Monday 11th December 1995?
19. What does 'vide infra' mean?
20. To which car battery electrode is the car body attached?

Answers will be published
in the next edition of
The Forth Columnist!

© JCO 1995



Ted Finch was controller for Vet Nat event at Glen Dye - he showed me his controller's comments for the event, which I thought I'd like to share with you...

My Observations of finishers at Glen Dye reminded me of some lines similar to those of Robert Browning:

*At the Finish the Planners paused,
Smiling just a little smile
As if they knew what magic coursed
In this quiet wood the while.*

*Then a sight of distant motion.
At the Finish was all commotion.
First one, then two, they all came running,
As out of the forest the Vets came tumbling.
Great Vets, small Vets, lean Vets, brawny Vets,
Grave old plodders, now blowing hard.
Fathers, mothers, uncles, cousins.
Clutching map and punching card,
Orienteers by tens and dozens.
40s, 50s, 60s too
Navigated straight and true.*

*Then as if all had paused to take a breath,
You heard as if an army mutter'd;
And the muttering grew to a grumbling;
And the grumbling grew to a mighty rumbling.
All at once the vets were chattering
Of routes they'd taken and decisions made,
And controls found in that sunny glade.
Of the courses there was great mention,
Indeed there was no dissention,
Tough, tricky, a real test:*

The courses had been the best.

TF

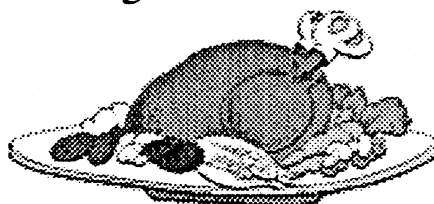


Friday 16th February

*Valentine
Street O /
Treasure Hunt!*

*Chez Cooke at 43 Borestone Place STIRLING
6pm onwards and Party till Midnight*

*Bring "Quiche"
- Rest of food provided.*



MEMBERSHIP FORMS

Membership forms for 1996 are enclosed.

To help keep our records up-to-date, please can ALL members return their form (completed) to Susan Sinclair.

Irrespective of whether or not you are completing BOF forms too!

FVO AGM

*Friday
January 19th
1996*

Venue: *Dumyat Leisure Centre,
Main Street East,
MENSTRIE*

Leisure Centre open from 7.00 pm
!!! AGM Starts at 7.30 pm!!!

Burns Supper



Bring Your Own Booze!
Contact Claire on (01259) 761310 with
offers of help with FOOD / COOKING.

And a Happy New Year!



DAVE PEEL - Good Luck on your New Venture

You'll be welcome back here in Civilisation ANY TIME!