

NSW ROGAINING NEWSLETTER

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JAN 1995

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BELIEVE IT OR NOT

by IAN CARR

As soon as I put the phone down I knew Ian Dempsey and I had a good chance of taking out the veterans' class. The surprise of all, believe it or not, was to win the overall points as well.

The phone call confirmed that Ian and I would team up to compete in the 'Believe it or Not' Rogaine. I must add that Ian was instrumental in my interest in rogaining when we teamed up a number of years ago when my wife withdrew from our first ever rogaine. Ian and I went on to win our class then and so it was to be again - only just.

Upon receiving our maps, a course and kilometre check revealed about a 22km straight line distance between controls. I left Ian to do the calculations. My calculations are a bit loose, rule of thumb measurement. If the rogaine is a six hour event, go for it (out for three hours turn around and repeat the same back). Sloppy I know, but it has worked for me in the past.

The problem we faced, and I should imagine most teams where in the same boat, was how to use the time bonus points to our best advantage. We pondered this for some time, delaying our start by 38 minutes for no particular reason. At that point we really thought we could punch all the controls in under the six hour limit.

We left the start triangle brimming with confidence something Arthur Kingsland and Anthony Darr must have had lots of because they were heading for the pool delaying their eventual start for a longer period.

The Woronora River Valley controls were our first objective taking advantage of the track system. Controls 45, 47 - crossed the river with dry feet, followed leaking pipe line to 80 and retraced our steps north to 54. Somewhere at this point we met Ian McKenzie who was out on a training exercise. He pointed out that rogaining history may be taking place, three Ian's in one spot on a rogaine map. Silly thought I know but highly possible. On to 34 then 60 saw us out in the field for 1 hour 14 minutes. Up old Illawarra Road to 32, concealed in scrubby watercourse. I wondered whether Old Illawarra Road could have been an early road link to the south, possibly during the stagecoach days. Does anybody know?

At this point I was in trouble, finding myself depleted of energy and with no balance I struggled to follow Ian up out of the gorge. I do not know if Ian sensed it, but I felt quite ill and directed my concentration on just staying in contact with him rather than map detail.

Due to the thickness of the scrub we found ourselves up higher than we thought, so we changed our route choice to incorporate the water drop then 33, attacking from the top, 2 hours 16 minutes had past. At this point we were still confident of getting all the markers. Pushing through the green maze towards 53, up around the knoll, turning west to the powerline coming upon a lunar landscape with all features obliterated making it hard to pick up the watercourse head. Our first choice turned out to be the right watercourse, but somehow in the thick scrub we missed the flag and ended up down low at Bardens Creek, on a unmarked track, not wanting to waste any more time, we followed the track to 42. We turned south back along the track, pace counted, marking watercourses off as we went and found 52 below the feature given in the clue sheet. Back up to the power line we turned north onto the track.

To my annoyance my vision had become bleary which no amount of rubbing would rectify making map reading difficult. We joggled most of the way to 40, a control with a view. It is at this point we know there was no hope of getting across the gorge to 90, plus also working through the western controls.

With only one and a half hours left in the rogaine a decision had to be made and we decided to cut short our course and head for home at great haste picking up as many controls as possible. So from 40 we went along the track down into the creek to 41, scurrying back up onto the track around the ridge to 52, Ian finding a lost hat and myself losing a hat. We went onto 30 by the track system. Night caught us up here, with torches fixed we followed the old fence line around to 43, under fading torch light we struggled into the control at the head of Bardens Creek.

With a sigh of relief from this point it was a matter of following the tracks back to the hash house.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held at 7.00pm
on Saturday 18.2.95 (before the Upside Down Rogaine).

All committee positions are up for election.

If you cannot be present at the AGM and are interested in a position please contact Trevor Gollan or Alan Mansfield.

[See page 2 for phone no.s]

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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	Debbie Cox	7/104 Pacific Parade, DEE WHY 2099	02 981 1795

1995 - EVENT CALENDAR

DATE	HOURS	EVENT	LOCATION	ORGANIZERS / HELPERS
19 FEB 95	12 HOUR	UPSIDE DOWN ROGAINE	WST BLUE MTNS	ANDREW WISNIIEWSKI ALAN MANSFIELD
12 MAR 95	6 HOUR	ACT PADDY PALLIN	STH OF CANBERRA	PHIL CREASER -- ACT --
8 APR 95	6 HOUR	ACT CYCLEGAINE	NEAR CANBERRA	MALCOLM LESLIE -- ACT --
23 APR 95	6 HOUR	METROGAINE	NRTHN SUBURBS of SYDNEY	JULIAN LEGER MARNIE HOLMES
13/14 MAY 95	24 HOUR	AUST CHAMPS	BUDAWANGS	DARYL ERBACHER
4 JUN 95	6 HOUR	PADDY PALLIN	NW of SYDNEY	STEPHEN CASTLE
24 JUN 95	24 HOUR	S&R NAV 1995	BLUE MTNS	JOHN TONITTO
12 AUG 95	12 HOUR	LAKE MACQUARIE	WATAGAN MTNS	BERT VAN NETTEN ARTHUR KINGSLAND IAN DEMPSEY
9/10 SEP 95	24 HOUR	NSW CHAMPS	LITHGOW AREA	GARETH PROSSER
7 OCT 95	12 HOUR	SPRING ROGAINE	to be announced	GORDON NIGHTINGALE -- ACT --
11/12 NOV 95	24 HOUR	INTERSTATE CHALLENGE	ALBURY	TONY PERROTT -- VIC --
25 NOV 95	6 HOUR	SOCIALGAINE	STH of SYDNEY	TREVOR GOLLAN

INTERSTATE EVENTS

18 FEB 95	6 HOUR	CYCLEGAINE	-- VIC --
5 MAR 95		METROGAINE	-- QLD --
11 MAR 95		METROGAINE	-- SA --
18/19 MAR 95	24 HOUR	CHAMPS	-- VIC --
9 APR 95	6 HOUR		-- VIC --
25 APR 95		CYCLEGAINE	-- SA --
29 APR 95	12 HOUR		-- WA --
20 MAY 95	8 HOUR		-- VIC --
10/11 JUN 95	24 HOUR	CHAMPS	-- WA --
17 JUN 95	6 HOUR		-- VIC --
17 JUN 95	6/12 HOUR		-- QLD --
15 JUL 95	8 HOUR	METROGAINE	-- VIC --
5/6 AUG 95	24 HOUR	CHAMPS	-- SA --
12/13 AUG 95	24 HOUR		-- WA --
13 AUG 95	3 HOUR	MAXI	-- VIC --
19 AUG 95	5 HOUR	SNOGAINE	-- VIC --
9 SEP 95	12 HOUR		-- VIC --
7 OCT 95	12 HOUR		-- WA --
7/8 OCT 95	8/24 HOUR		-- QLD --
15 OCT 95	8 HOUR		-- VIC --
28 OCT 95	12 HOUR		-- SA --

INTERSTATE CONTACTS

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VIC SECRETARY	Phil Holman	03 690 0962
SA PRESIDENT	Gary Jackson	08 258 5696
WA EDITOR	Bryan Hardy	09 342 7692

SOCIALGAINE COMMENTS

compiled by *TREVOR GOLLAN*

Warwick conceived an end-of-season, friendly, short distance, low-key rogaine into the 1994 calendar. George Collins volunteered to run such an event with the rogaine fraternity at the Lucas Heights Nuclear Science Labs, utilising the attractive Woronora River and Barden Creek bush corridors. Then he "did a Marnie"! Just as work was about to start on the course he headed off to Germany for three months, delegating all the co-ordination to Maurice Ripley - believe it or not.

Now, Maurice has helped with course-setting a couple of times before. The middle of the Yetholme course and the north-west frontier at Murrumbidgee bear his stamp, but this was his first effort at an entire rogaine. With Mike and Debbie Hotchkis' competent support, I think they produced an excellent event, first-class hash-house, and a challenging course.

To make a "short" course more competitive, they implemented a Watterson suggestion. After the 3pm start, a team could choose to hand back their control card and stay at the hash house for 15 to 240 minutes, accumulating a point for each minute they delayed.

This opened up a whole new series of conundrums. What was the optimal time to leave? What were the other, competitive teams doing? It meant that the gun teams were obliged to finish close to the 9pm deadline hence were compelled to do some work in the dark. It also meant that the results remained unclear until the proper finish time, something that has been missing with the short courses that we have encountered in the last few years.

The quandary was in assessing the speed at which a team could travel. We are well aware of the adversity of Hawkesbury sandstone countryside, but there were so many tracks available (marked and unmarked) that it seemed to everybody that all the controls would be collected by the faster teams. It did not work out that way.

I canvassed a few other views...

PHIL SPARK: The whole family enjoyed this event with the variety of terrain and interesting features. We basically went down to the river, did the loop back up to the site and around via the kangaroos to the hash house. We started late and our pace was set by our two and a half year old who decided to lead the family down the steep track/steps, with some help from his father.

The scenery along the river was a plus for the children and the interesting control in the rainforest gully was great. The children also enjoyed going across the water on the stepping stones. We all thought the food was good, as was the location of the hash house. Because there was a defined area to retire in once one had returned, there was opportunity to socialize, one of the purposes of the event.

The delayed start turned out to be handy for us as I had to work on the day, finishing at the Showgrounds at 4.00pm. We did not start until nearly 5.30pm, which meant we collected some bonus points which were probably more than we would have collected in the equivalent time. It also meant that our time out on the course was about three and a half hours which was a good length of time for the younger of the children.

The organisers deserve our congratulations for a great event. Looking forward to next year.

GEOFF SILBURN: The rogaine itself was harder than I thought it would be (lead to believe?). We had a long discussion about how to classify rogaines, and agreed that this event was not really a beginners' event. It seemed to vary widely from OK (on tracks) to exceedingly difficult. Great scenery, bloody hard country. Most notable was that in the first three hours, every decision we made backfired.

I am not sure about the delayed start. I guess it would depend on how confident you are of the terrain. We averaged about a point a minute, but did have a bad day. If we had delayed we would have had more points, if we had done the easier bits of the course.

MARNIE HOLMES: I enjoyed the Socialgaine rather like the curate's egg ... good in parts! First the bad bits:

- Very hot struggling up and down over all those contours in the eastern section of the course.
- Very nerve-racking trying to persuade Watters to get out of the pool and get ready for the start. Lucky we got points for starting late, otherwise we would have been even worse off!
- Do not assume that your partner is on the right bearing, especially if he says, when you ask after 200m or so, "What's a bearing?"

The good bits:

- Really lovely area down there on the Woronora River, I would like to go there again.
- It got dark before Felix and I dragged Watters past the tip so we did not have to tie a blindfold on him to keep him away from all the interesting bits of rubbish there may have been!
- Congrats to Maurice and Mike for a course which was really tricky and fooled us all. Must admit that we thought, before setting out, that we would get all the controls - far too optimistic and we still would not have had a chance even if Peter had not sprained his ankle early on!
- My favourite description was for #60 (tidal limit) and #47 was pleasant in the rainforest.

I have decided not to trade in my regular partner just yet!! Thanks to Peter and Felix for a different style of rogaine. Particular thanks again to the rogainisers! (started as a spelling mistake but it looks quite good, eh?)

GRAEME COOPER: I think the overall concept of a short, easy event combined with an end of year get-together at a place with good amenities, close to Sydney, is a good one worth repeating. This year's event certainly met all those requirements except the course, which was much too difficult. I am glad I took note of the warning about wearing long duds!

Given that I knew from past events that I could average 3km/hour and accepting the organiser's figure of 20km to collect all controls I suggested to my partners, David Sigley and Geoff Silburn, that if we were going to get them all we should not delay our start. This was agreed and off we went to do the southern side of New Illawarra Road.

With 45 our first target, our first mistake was to aim at it straight down the hillside instead of going around the path. Having reached it we all agreed to follow the path and road this time till we got above 33. So I puffed back up the hill after my younger partners.

On reaching 33, we looked at our watches, reflected on the view we had from a lookout just above 45 of the steep green hills running down to the river and decided that the flatter country to the north was the way to go. So off to 53. Once again by trying to cross the 300m of almost impenetrable scrub from the end of the out-of-bounds to the road up past 53 we could see the only way to get anywhere at an acceptable pace was to stay on the roads. Somewhere on this leg we swapped notes with another group and found we would both have accumulated more points by just sitting at the hash house and sipping on a cool drink. After 53 we failed to find 52 and went on to 42, 40, 41, 50, 30, 43 and home three minutes late.

The course was well set and took good advantage of the available features but given the daunting vegetation was not the right one for this event. The delayed start scheme is a good idea. It has the potential to give both the slowpokes and the runners the satisfaction of seeing

most, if not all, of the course. It should also reduce the work of the course setter since the course only has to be set to keep the slowpoke occupied for six hours. The catch is it requires very accurate assessment of the course, something which is always difficult.

ARTHUR KINGSLAND: great event, good concept. A short event at this time of the year has potential. I have always preferred the heat to the cold, but I suppose the potential for danger is high for those who are not attuned to their heat control. We do need to be careful about the dangers of competing in the heat as any major casualty will bring unbalanced, bad publicity. Very strong warnings should be given (eg. similar to those for the Queensland O Champs/World Masters Games, also held in 30-35° heat).

One possibility for a summer event is to mirror the Upside Down rogaine principle, and start a six hour event at, say, 4:00 am and go until 10:00 am, avoiding most of the heat. I do not think that such an event should be used with the 'delayed start bonus' as these two ideas seem to me to be fairly distinct and opposed in character.

Slow bush means that fast teams are slowed down and probably expend less energy, but get irritated with the slow going. These are complex combinations of good and bad, depending on your perspective. A consequence is the difficulty of providing enough water, especially in an area so close to suburban Sydney.

Unfortunately there was no camping. There were probably at least 15 (crazy) Newcastle rogainers who would have camped and enjoyed a glass (or six) of red. You probably noticed that it was difficult to get rid of them after the presentation.

It was a new experience to be, at about 4:15pm, standing in the pool shivering with the cold while most other teams were out on the course

probably at the opposite extreme! We were fooled by the view that a substantial number of teams would get the lot. Although this was not specifically stated, it was our reading of the information to competitors. Anthony and I were fooled by the difficulty of the terrain and lost concentration at about dusk. I am not sure whether this was due to dehydration, although neither of us seemed to suffer unduly. We also were still full of running at the end. We are not sure if this would have been the case had we started at 3:00pm like most of the other teams. In retrospect (and even at about 4:30 pm on the day) we wonder why we did not start two minutes after the next competitive team!

Continue the good effort. I think innovative ideas like the Upside Down, the Metrogaine, the Socialgaine etc. will keep many interested and probably help to swell the numbers. As you are aware I tend to be a sprinter and look for these novelty rogaines rather than looking to the 24-hour true rogaines.

It may be possible to re-use areas previously accessed for events such as the Socialgaine. I can not see that knowledge of the area should be such a factor if the correct judgement of terrain difficulty vs delayed start bonus were important for the event. The difficulty will be in getting the right formula to encourage more teams to delay their start, yet not benefiting the sprinters.

TONY MURPHY: I think the delayed start is an excellent idea. Selecting which controls to go for is a fundamental part of rogaing. If it is possible to get all the controls, then part of the sport is missing, and everyone plays follow-the-leader. The points-for-delayed-start system means that a map can be set with only a modest number of controls (much less work for the course setters) but the traffic jam will be broken up a bit, and the winners will be decided on points rather than time. For socials, though, not for championships.

THE CLOSEST RESULT IN ROGAING HISTORY?

by MAURICE RIPLEY

The Believe-it-or-Not Rogaine held around ANSTO at Lucas Heights on the southern outskirts of Sydney had a problematic gestation. Despite the inference in the event name, it was George Collins who suggested we organise an event around our workplace (no travelling to set the course!). As soon as I agreed, however, he swanned off to Germany for three months (reminiscent of the Wuluuman event a few years ago) - some people will do anything to avoid work. Fortunately for me Mike Hotchkis, another ANSTO rogaing and orienteerer, stepped in and helped with the course setting and vetting. Even more fortunately, he and wife Debbie (after her efforts in the hash house at Lake Tabourie), organised the catering (which was superb).

A further problem was convincing the ANSTO authorities to let up to 250 people thrash around in the bush in the dark around the nuclear reactor site and low-level nuclear and chemical waste dumps. Explaining rogaing to non-believers in such a politically-sensitive establishment and convincing them that we would not have rescue helicopters lifting injured walkers out under the glare of television lights took some time! However the bushland, the proximity to Sydney and the wonderful pool-side hash house and facilities made it an ideal site for a rogaing. In the end there was no drama for ANSTO and only the Commonwealth Police on the gate at the time were aware of the event. The hash house lived up to all expectations and after the event the gathering felt more like a home poolside party (multiplied by ten) than the usual post-rogaing meal and presentation.

Ian Dempsey and Ian Carr won by three points with 734 in what must surely be the closest result in a rogaing to date. It was an unexpected quirk of Peter Watterson's idea to give competitors "time points" for delaying their start if they thought they could collect all controls. In the end, the winners collected barely half the points on offer, with misjudgment of the difficulty of the course being the order of the day

for competitors and organisers alike. The course required about 23 km to collect all controls and a number of the competitive teams chose to spend some time in the 25m swimming pool at the hash house in the expectation of completing the course within the six hours. However, the heat of the day, the density of the scrub, and the steep terrain conspired to make the course much more difficult than it appeared from the map.

It was the misjudgment of the organisers which contributed as well - there is a contingent of lunchtime runners at ANSTO and we know the area very well and tend to run on tracks and forget how tough the scrub is. I have an aversion to rogaing courses obviously set from tracks and wanted to give people choices between going the long way around on a track or the short way through the scrub to get the controls. This meant a lot more bush-bashing than we ever do at lunchtime and hence the course was much slower than we estimated - with a few more controls the course and the "time points" idea could have worked well for a 12 hour event!

On the other hand, we wanted the social rogainers and newcomers to experience the spectacular views and delightful bush settings on offer so close to Sydney suburbia and they too were accommodated - most of the eastern controls were positioned to enable a scenic stroll around the Woronora River valley and most teams concentrated on that part of the course. In the pre-Christmas social-rogaing mode a number of teams also spent time lolling in the river to beat the heat.

We had lots of appreciative comments (and a few criticisms) about the rogaing but the nicest vote of thanks was a letter from one of the winners of the junior section who reckoned it was second only to walking on the beach and getting the island control at low tide at Lake Tabourie - high praise indeed!

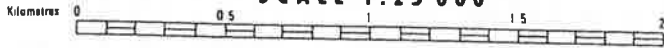
The Believe-it-or-Not Rogaine

26th November, 1994 Lucas Heights, NSW

Organised by the NSW Rogaining Association

Map reprinted with permission of Land Information Centre,
Bathurst NSW. Crown Copyright

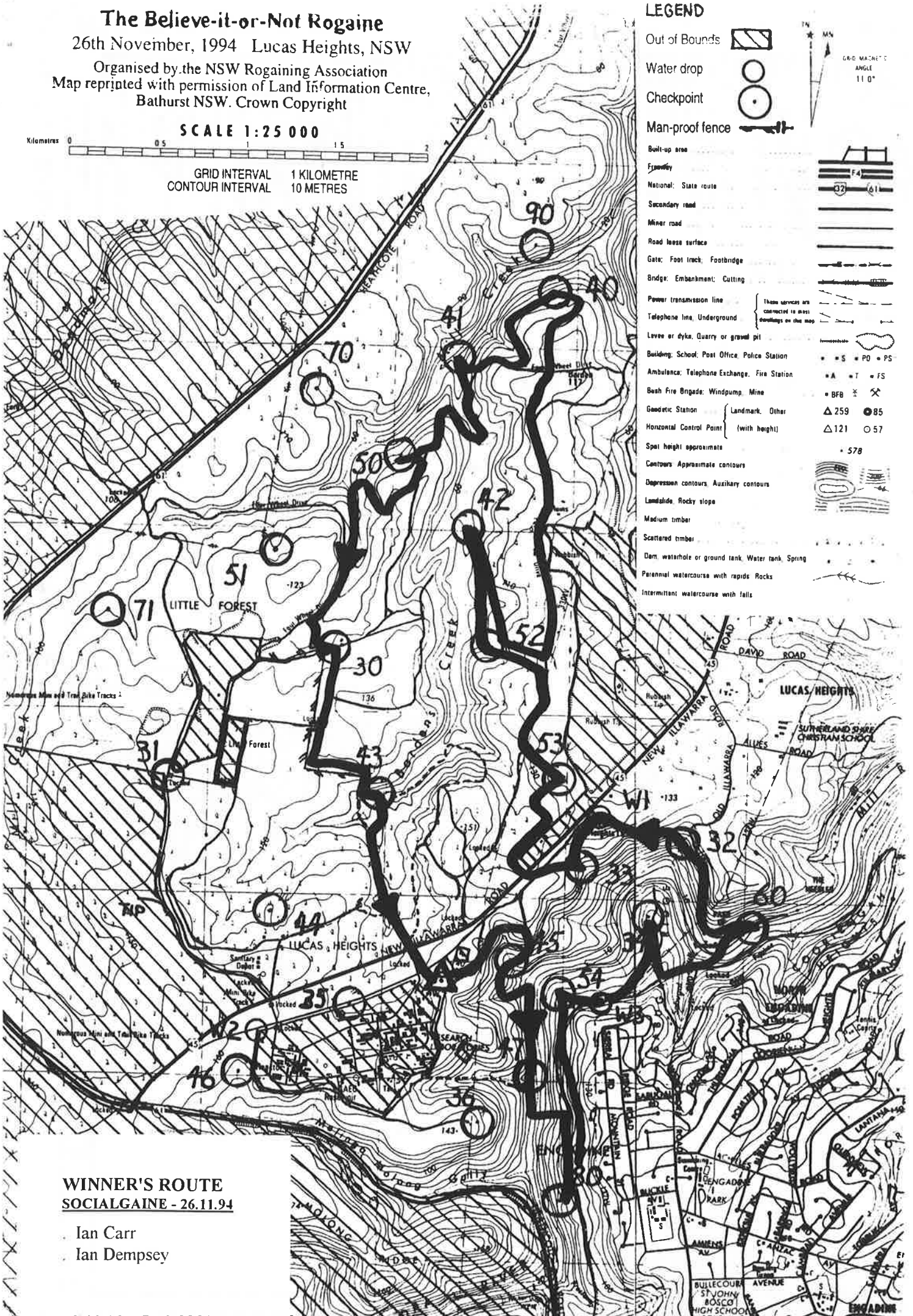
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GRID INTERVAL 1 KILOMETRE
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 METRES

LEGEND

- Out of Bounds
- Water drop
- Checkpoint
- Man-proof fence
- Built-up area
- Freeway
- National: State route
- Secondary road
- Miner road
- Road lease surface
- Gate: Foot track, Footbridge
- Bridge: Embankment; Cutting
- Power transmission line
- Telephone line, Underground
- Levee or dyke, Quarry or gravel pit
- Building: School, Post Office, Police Station
- Ambulance, Telephone Exchange, Fire Station
- Bush Fire Brigade, Windpump, Mine
- Geodetic Station
- Horizontal Control Point
- Spot height approximate
- Contours: Approximate contours
- Depression contours, Auxiliary contours
- Landslide, Rocky slope
- Medium timber
- Scattered timber
- Dam, waterhole or ground tank, Water tank, Spring
- Perennial watercourse with rapids, Rocks
- Intermittent watercourse with falls



WINNER'S ROUTE SOCIALGAINE - 26.11.94

Ian Carr
Ian Dempsey

ROGAINING IN 1994: FAIR'S FAIR

by PHIL CREASER

I was inspired (or frustrated) enough to put pen to paper following this year's Australian Championships. In writing this, I can still recall David Hogg's words in the *Australian Orienteer* last year, when he wrote about the luck element in rogaining, and how it can detract from its value as a serious competitive sport.

I do not really agree with David as I believe that with good course setting, choice of area, control placement etc., the luck element should be almost eliminated. However, when insufficient care is taken, luck does come into play, particularly in events which involve night navigation.

I competed in four events this year: the ACT Paddy Pallin 6 hour event, the Cyclegaine 6 hour event (on foot), the ACT 24 hour Championship and the Australian Championship. Both 6 hour events were held on 1:25,000 maps. The country was steep in places, but I felt with both events a lot of thought had been put into the course setting including control locations. There was no sneakiness about the controls and I really enjoyed both events. Similarly, this year's ACT Championships on the 1:15,000 orienteering map was also enjoyable. The detail on the maps made navigation easier than normal but there was still the difficulty of finding boulders and cherry trees in the dark. Again, the control placements were fair and there were no attempts to trick people.

Regrettably, I cannot say the same about this year's Australian Championships, and I thought I might write something in the hope that some future course setters might read this and think about some of the points I have raised, particularly when it comes to 'fairness'.

Perhaps I should confess at the start that I do not like 1:50,000 maps. The lack of detail, and only occasional use, means it takes a while to adjust your thinking after using 1:25,000 scale. However, if 1:50,000 is all that is available, the course setters need to adjust their thinking so that control placement is fair, and finding the control does not rely on an element of luck. I consider you can only use major features such as knolls, saddles, watercourse junctions on 1:50,000 maps. This leads me to my second confession - I do not like controls on ridges/spurs, again for reasons of fairness. Unlike a watercourse that is normally no more than a few metres wide, I have searched (in vain!) for controls on spurs that are anything up to 100m wide, with no clearly defined ridge. The other problem with spurs is that it is usually hard to tell how far up or down a spur you are - unlike watercourses where bends and junctions enable you to pinpoint your position very easily. Again trying to find controls on what may (or may not) be a spur at night really is a matter of luck. Similarly, trying to find a boulder on a hillside among hundreds of boulders is luck. There is no way that you can accurately place a control on a boulder on a 1:50,000 map, unless it is on a major feature (knoll, saddle, watercourse junction).

Now there will be those among you who will say that it was an Australian Championship and the navigation should be difficult. I would not dispute that. It should be difficult, but it should be fair. The difficulty should be between control sites not when you are in the control circle. If you are in the right watercourse, or on the right knoll you should not have to spend time playing hide and seek for the control. You should be able to see the control, punch it and be on your way.

While there were many good things about this year's Australian Championships, my lasting impression is one of an event that did not just make it as a great event because of the course setting. I felt that not enough care had gone into the control location, placement and description.

Unfair course setting is not the same as difficult navigation. I do not believe placing a control on boulders on a spur in cypress forest

(even the right boulder) is fair practice on a 1:50,000 map. Placing controls inside a woolshed (described as a 'tin shed') is also an unfair description. Placing controls on features that cannot be recognised on the map and are in a potentially dangerous location when approached at night from a certain direction is also unfair.

So please, the next time you set a course, think about the control location, placement and description. Ask yourself - is it fair? Is it in precisely the right position so it can be found at night? It is much better to be fair and easy, than unfair and difficult - the best rogainers will still win! As a final comment, please do not mislead people about the type of area it is - if it is steep in places with thick cypress pine forests and some dense undergrowth following bushfires then say so. Do not insult competitors by saying "clear walking" when it clearly is not. Be honest. Be fair.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



The third most common cause of forest fires.

By GARY LARSON
© FARWORKS INC Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

HELPERS URGENTLY NEEDED

for catering
at the Upside-Down Rogaine.

Please contact Andrew Wisniewski or Alan Mansfield
- see enclosed entry form for contact phone numbers

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Melonie Hope and Cameron Shorter
after their marriage on 26 November 1994
- the things people will do to avoid our Socialgaine!

Melonie and Cameron had major roles in organising the
Upside Down Rogaine last February.

Cameron Osborne and Carol Ankers were also
married in December.

VENICE STREET O - 6 NOV 1994

by MARK SYLVESTER TRIESTE, ITALY

The Venice Street O 1994 lived up to the city's watery character: it was a wet business.

The leaden sky as we drove from Trieste warned of the downpour that began round about noon, but the announcement as we were preparing to start that we should expect "acqua alta" made it clear that the race would be special. This "high water" is the most obvious sign that the city is sinking into the lagoon: the combination of a high tide and the scirocco blowing up the Adriatic, sends the level of the lagoon well above street level, by as much as a metre in places.

Indeed, there were already little waves breaking over the Zattere, next to the Stazione Marittima, which served as this year's race centre. I headed inland towards the start, along quieter canals where the flooded pavements were less turbulent, trying vainly to keep my new trainers out of the murky suspension of dog excrement.

Clearly, probability and depth of flooding were going to be important route-choice criteria. I wondered how useful contour lines with, say a 5cm interval would be while noting how the rising water delineated the shallow re-entrant in the piazza in front of the Church of the Carmini (14th century) where we were waiting to start. There were, by the way, Masses going on inside all morning, so it was possible to nip in before starting, if you were that way inclined. Not a usual facility at the start.

The other important criterion for route choice in Venice is the tourist density. This has a huge effect on running speed, and I have long maintained that the map needs something corresponding to the shades of green to convey this information.

Thus from #5 to #6 I had to choose between Rio San Leonardo - strada Nova, which was likely to be crowded, and Fondamenta degli Ornesini, which was likely to be flooded. I chose the latter. It was here I met the first gumbooted old ladies cringing at the sight of a splashing orienteerer, appealing to me to keep well clear. This was easy on the wide pavement of the Ornesini, but later on tourist-splashing began to take on a certain malicious appeal.

From #7 to #8 I was drawn by the long straight line of the Fondamenta Nove, facing onto the lagoon. This turned out to be awash with the most enormous waves, up to 30 cm high. An exciting gallop! Number 10 was in a little corner facing onto a minor canal. Knee-deep in the murky water, I was not too sure just where the edge of the canal was! Number 11 was just off one corner of St Mark's Square: deep in the fight!

The tide peaked at about #11, but from #12 on there was steady, heavy rain, so things were vaguely balanced. I did not stay for the prize giving, what with the general wetness, but all I saw of the race was well organised for the size of the event - rather bigger than the typical Italian O-meet.

Riding back to Piazzale Roma with the rain drumming on the roof of the vaporetto, crossing the wide greeny-grey Giudecca Canal, I might have reflected on what a grand and crazy business it is, orienteering in Venice, Queen of the Seas, but the sentiment is no less true for having struck me again only now.

MAKE SURE YOU STAY ON THE RIGHT TRACK

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CONTACT



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EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Wanted! Volunteers to assist with the running of rogaines in 1995. If you are a regular rogainer and have not assisted with the running of an event in the past maybe you would help out in 1995. Assisting at an event once every two or three years would share the workload among all of our members. Just contact the event organiser or a committee member.

MEMBERSHIP 1995 - \$10

We like to keep in touch with rogainers. We like you to keep informed of upcoming events and rogaining news. We like to keep things simple.

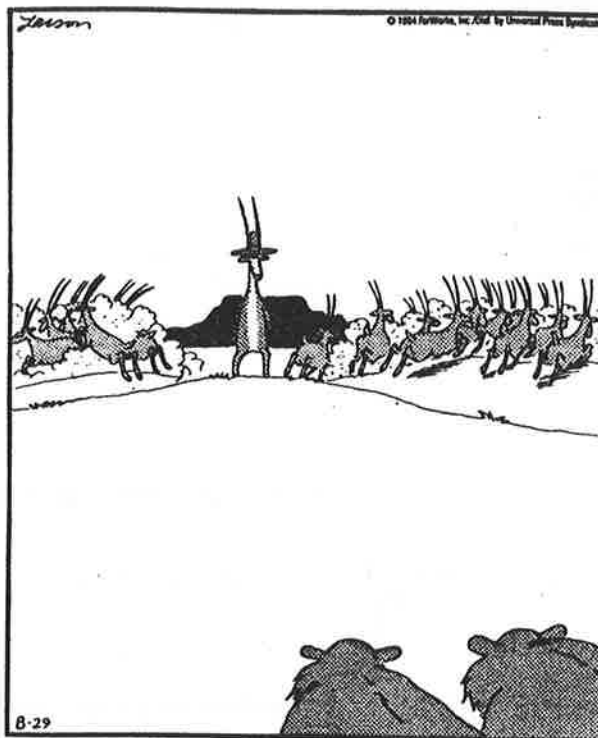
So for 1995, we have altered the membership fee rules. Everyone pays a \$10 annual fee to be a member of the NSW Rogaining Association Inc. You may have **Individual** membership (\$10) or a **Household** membership (\$10) which includes all people living at a single address.

Do not wait until you enter an event, sometime later in the year. Send in the renewal form (below) straight away ... keep in touch.

Please make cheque payable to the NSW Rogaining Association and send to Graeme Cooper, Cluny Rd MSF2005, ARMIDALE NSW 2350 - phone (067) 72 3584

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



When the dust had settled, a lone figure was revealed standing on the small knoll. Yes, he, too, was a herd animal — but he was *through* runnin'.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION

N.S.W. Rogaining Association Incorporated
(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984)

I,
(full name of applicant)

of (address)

..... (town & postcode)

..... (home phone) (work phone)

hereby apply to become a member (or renew membership) of the above named incorporated association. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force.

I also nominate the following persons, of the same address as mine, as Household members of the above named incorporated association.

1. 4.

2. 5.

3. 6.

Signature of applicant

Date

If the name and/or address on the label is incorrect, please fill in this form and return to
Graeme Cooper, Cluny Road MSF2005, ARMIDALE NSW 2350

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE / FAX / EMAIL: _____

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