



24th Winter Classic and Wayne Cretney Memorial 15th August, 2010

Race Report: Wet, Wet, Wet

Date: 15th August 2010

Map: Deliverance (New map)

Organiser and Planner: Bryan Teahan

Another year over for the masochism which is the Winter Classic, where the mind wars with the body, where the physical competes with the mental, and where there is plenty of soul.

Thanks again to Alan for all the work he did as an organiser, and to Mick Finn for the website changes and logo, and to the Wellington club for helping on the day.

I pushed a few more than I liked beyond endurance. It's a fine line between tough and too tough.

This event was one of the wettest I've ever been involved with – it was wet mapping, it was wet planning and setting out controls, and it was wet on the day – wet, wet, wet. I won't be buying a house in Karori, as quite often it was raining while the rest of Wellington was cloudy or fine. Again, like last year, the terrain was one of the hardest for me to map and one of the most bruising – I would fall over and slip many times and at times I wished I was one of the goats which I saw a few times on the map. On the day before the event I gave myself a fat ear which nearly knocked me senseless. On the whole though, I enjoyed mapping this wild area and exploring and finding cool features.

On the domestic front, life has to continue at the same time as the planning and organising. It's not a good idea to recarpet 3 bedrooms and revinyl a bathroom in the week before the event – finding vital pieces of stuff when it's scattered around the house can make life interesting. My son was home with the flu all week, so I had to stay at home for 2 days, enabling me to catch up with the never-ending tasks required for a Winter Classic while nursing a sick child.

The theme for the event was because of a downhill mountain bike track on the map called 'Deliverance' which takes you from the top of Wright's Hill and delivers you to Karori Mountain Bike Park. I'm sure that you all felt you were being delivered to freedom when you finished.

This map was the first version of a seamless map of the Wellington suburb of Karori and surrounding hills. Next year, you will probably see another new area and map.

Unfortunately, because of the weather you missed out on seeing some stunning vistas – come back on a fine day and you will see marvellous views of Wellington at the top of Wright's Hill.

Runnability is subjective and not all walk/fight areas were totally checked as it would have taken too long to map. This made the courses in some places a little bit unfair as some could find a magical route and others get stuck in fight for minutes – the Winter Classic wouldn't be the Winter Classic without these 'character-building' bits and Wayne would turn in his grave if I made it too easy for you. However, I tried to again keep these to a minimum as I know that many of you go off course and end up in the green without me having to put you through it.

I hope I gave you a flavour of the area by taking you to some unique man-made features – there are plenty more out there ready for another event. A benefit to mapping was I was able to bring home for my son three balls in good condition – two soccer balls and a basketball.



Karori Park



At the top of Wright's Hill

This year, based on last year's results, I shortened everything a little bit – course lengths shorter, climb less, only 50 controls instead of 58, more street running and some flat bits. However, due to the weather, wetness and physical terrain, it ended up being similar or a little bit tougher than last year. Oh well, I'm sure you all enjoyed the extra challenge.

Thanks to Michael Wood for giving free entry to the City Safari for the winners of the Rogaine. Next year, I will probably create a junior rogaine category for youngsters as there was at least one young team which competed admirably against their older competitors. Also, we will split up the Rogaine into different categories, Open Men, Open Women, Mixed, Veteran, Junior.

Numbers for the event increased from last year – 141 compared to 125 making it the biggest Winter Classic so far.

We will have to do something special for the 25th Anniversary next year with a tentative theme of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne?*

Keep your calendar open.

Maps and Courses

Results:

<http://www.winterclassic.co.nz/wc/results2010.html>

Splits:

<http://www.winterclassic.co.nz/wc/splits2009.htm>

Obviously people clipped at the pivots instead of using the sport ident. I'll have to think of a better way to record loop and leg times next year.

Photos:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Orienteering.Wellington/WinterClassic2010>

Maps and Routes:

http://www.orienteeringsresults.com/O/nzof/WinterClassic/maps/2010_gallery.htm

Check out the first map which has most of my planned route choices - it has distances and climb against each route. Others probably took different routes.

Did you see all the choices?

Talking to many at the finish, there were many who didn't take the best route - but it's hard to judge for some which is quickest and towards the end of a course your route choices change due to one route being more physical and the other being more attractive due to more track running.

Here are some comments on the route choices:

Michael Wood (2nd M40): No I didn't see all the choices. The mark of a well-set course, thank you Bryan.

One that you haven't shown is from C2 18-19 round the top and through #20. The direct route looked bloody steep both down and up; and after earlier getting ahead of eventual winner Neil Kane with an "around" route I tried it again. We left 18 together and I calculate from chance sightings that he was 4min quicker. BUT 2min of that was helping an ailing C1 runner with a bit of food. So a viable route choice I reckon.

Jamie Stewart (1st M21A): ok I'll play the game, the course planner deserves at least that!! A couple of routes there I didn't see, but none that I think I would consider in retrospect.

Brent and I took A around the road I think this is probably fastest(I bullsed up here and went to 2 first)

To number 3 I considered F but chose E because there was still a lot of bush bashing and climb on F. I'm not quite sure how Jason got ahead of me around here somewhere, maybe he took F, or didn't get 2, or maybe my track route to 4 was slow

and Brent and Jason caught me just before 4 when thought I had caught them. We were all together at 4

To five G was clearly the best route, Brent and I lost Jason here and saw him heading down to the control as we were climbing high above it.

Brent and I took L as did Neil Kane, was pretty grotty.

Brent and I split through O-P, they were pretty equal.

After this Brent and I marked each other for a while not wanting to risk different route choices in case we got caught out by a chance piece of green

V-W around the tracks were the only options in my opinion at that stage of a race. We scared a few rogainers racing past them pretty hard as Brent nearly got away from me.

I made a little break from Brent at 17 after he hesitated, then after 18 I took Z and Brent took Y, neither were easy, but perhaps Z was quicker I certainly gained a little time.

Then the last long leg back to civilisation, I didn't see CC, but I think it is too far right. I went out that way then headed left down the nice track to the road. The left hand routes looked a little risky, but they kept it interesting as I was wondering if Brent might appear as I neared the finish.

Thanks again Bryan really interesting race and I am looking forward to a few training missions in there!

Bryan Teahan (Planner): I didn't see your route, Michael but it's a possibility with about 20-30m less climb and faster track/roads but a lot longer.

Interesting how Jamie you chose W (868m, 75m) instead of X (363m 90m).

With only a little less climb, in green terrain, track options which are 2 - 3 times longer are viable. I'm sure I would have chosen the same route as Jamie at the same stage of the race but I suspect the straighter way is quicker (which doesn't mean it is better as you have to subsequently finish the race well and not hit the wall).

Other Comments

There were lots of stories out there. Here are some other comments:

- 'It beat me this year'
- 'I loaned a muesli bar from Michael'
- 'He fell over many times and at one point slid on his backside down the hill'
- 'That control was just plain mean'

- 'I can't wear these shoes – they're sliding too much' and he threw them off and proceeded to run barefoot.
- 'The map around there should have more green'
- 'I missed the track and bushbashed through green before deciding to give up'

Yvette Baker (1st W21): Thanks again for another great race, and yes, even more satisfying as it was in my back yard. I found it very amusing of the 'No way, there's surely no white forest down there' type, as I kept diving off my normal running tracks into thick gorse, only to emerge amazed that anyone could've spent quite so many hours discovering all these hidden bits of 'forest'. So a huge thank you for all your efforts. Loved the course and it was great to run the long loop with Penny, as my competitive spirit kicked in and I kept trying alternative routes, as she was clearly stronger in the bush than I was.

I'm not sore now thanks, but still got the same aching back as last year from 2 hrs bent double..... and the same deja vu sensation of expecting to find myself down at the doctors for tetanus injections as I went careering down wet rusty sheet metal car doors!

Sorry to miss the prize giving, but I felt obliged to get Bill and myself back to Susan to relieve her of baby sitting my 3 and her 3 kids!

Micheal Wood (2nd M40): Jamie! (Then he went off to play a game of rugby. He'll probably follow that with a kids birthday party. Watch out Chris Forne.)

And Yvette won the women. Those birthday parties again.

Bryan Teahan (Planner): A tough one this year. I can tell when its tough by who doesn't finish and also that noone stays around to pick up controls (only myself and Alan - some controls are still out there).

After checking all controls (and putting out half of them), and picking up 60% of the controls on Sunday, I was bushed and still am.

I will be a zombie at work and I expect many of the competitors will be too.

Brent Edwards (2nd M21): Hey Bryan, thanks for a great event. Was a tough tough course. One of the most physical Orienteering races ever. I am sore today.

Nick Engleback (1st M50): Bryan, the whole family had a great time yesterday. I am looking forward to using that map again. I have already replied to Alan H about collecting controls this week, or tonight even.

Jamie Stewart (1st M21): Hey Bryan, just to back up previous comments, thanks for the fantastic event. Plenty of orienteering challenge on a new forest map in the heart of Wellington, who would have thought!!

The extended Kane-Stewart whanau had some great experiences: Brent and myself battling it out; Penny going toe to toe with one of the best women orienteers in the world ever and (this one is definitely the highlight) Neil celebrating his retirement by smashing the best that the M40/45/50/55/60 age-groups could dredge up.

Whats that saying about men, sorting and boys?

Thanks again, the fact that you have gone in and mapped that jungle, and how long it must have taken you staggers me, we can only be appreciative of people who put unique events like this on, there are so few of them.

Michael Wood: The octopus might be wondering why he got that feeling in his tentacles about the Cretney Trophy Winner. Neil's age is (you-know-what) squared.

Jason Markam: (1st M21 last year, DNF this year): I don't recall the last time I DNFed, maybe never. I caught Jamie and Brent briefly near the top of the second climb up Wright's Hill, but after a couple more climbs (having lost the leaders) I hit the wall and made the difficult decision to get out of the bush before my body started to shut down. Despite the disappointment of not finishing it was very satisfying to experience an extreme physical and mental challenge so close to civilization. Well done Jamie.

Thanks Bryan for a great event. The head-to-head race format with loops makes it one of the highlights of the year for me. Thanks especially for opening up new areas of Wellington's streets and reserves. This unique combination of accessible yet physical terrain is under-utilized. Bryan, I hope you can find the time and motivation to serve up more of the same next year-- I think Wayne Cretney would approve.

Gavin Scott (1st M60): From an older competitor, thanks for a great outing Bryan. Was really good to do a classic O event that is designed to be long and yet have a chance of putting in a respectable time. Running up grades at a normal event is not the same - you end up with a sick looking time, the legs have too much dead running and you worry about getting back before the search comes out. I very much enjoyed the experience (Wrights Hill) of getting through the native bush in hard steep country with low visibility, a reason to be there, a map to show where it was reasonable to go, holding myself together, and leg speed not all that important. All within the city. The size of your solo effort is mind boggling, and not least the mapping. So thanks!

What's the story about all the DNFs in M21?

Bryan Teahan (Planner): Jason hit the wall - see above.

Bill retired injured - I think he did his knee in.

Ramash retired injured - twisted his ankle.

James ran in borrowed shoes - came back to first map change saying they were useless - threw them away in disgust and proceeded to run barefoot up the road to Wright's Hill (at this point he was ahead of Jason) but gave it up about an hour later. He asked for some spare maps so he could run the courses later on to see how he could have gone. He's keen and one to watch.

Scott and Ramon probably picked off more than they could handle.

All in all, based on previous classics, the attrition rate is similar to past events. The course is designed to push someone hard, right on the limits with the racing head-to-head involved and often competitors will hit the wall - I remember vividly doing this several times in previous classics. It's different to the rogaine where all competitors came back after 3 hours and use a more conservative approach.

Pete Swanson (1st M40 last year): Sounds like another classic event, and well done to Bryan and all the winners and survivors! Very sorry to have missed this one, although glad to say we survived our own winter classic with 14x 9year olds at the local climbing wall - still exhausted from it now!

Michael Wood (2nd M40): About three weeks ago David (King) had a spill in the Makara Peak MTB Park. He ended up in a tree and cracked a couple of ribs. He missed the last OY but was even more disappointed about the Winter Classic because he missed out on the win last year by 6 seconds.

As you may know there's nothing much you can do about ribs, and he did the course anyway. In fact he blazed a trail out of Course 2/Map 2/Control 16 when he and Michael Wood strayed out of the corridor of light green. Classic quote: "I can see the grass up there, I just can't get through!"

Colin Slater, Barryn Westfield (1st Challenge Rogaine): ... a fantastic course!
The winning route (from memory) was:

67,66,65,62,101,64,63,61,56,55,100,54,53 planned 59 and decided not to,
58,57,60,68,77 short crawl through the bushes to
78,69,71,72,73,74,79,75,76,82,81,70 and out the bottom of deliverance and out to
Karori Park, 35,34,33,102,43,42,41,40,48.

Whoops I forgot we finished with 32 and 31 as well (after 48)

We felt we did the Wrights Hill side pretty logically with minimal flaffing. The only real decision was to dump 59 as we had planned to clean that side of the course. As it was at least 65m down from the junction and looking at time we decided to miss it – probably a good decision. The only other faux-pas was a bit of meandering near the end when we could have probably been a bit more organised in the trees NW of Karori park, we picked up something like 450 points in less than 30 minutes but it all worked out in the end!. Thanks for a great course, great event – brilliant to go in-between the tracks we run and ride a lot & the soup was gratefully received.
Cheers Barryn & Colin.

Karl Strode-Penny (2nd Challenge Rogaine): I did actually do the event but I lost my sport ident before the start and didn't find it until after I finished so I just returned it after the finish. I added up my points and was happy enough considering I wasn't pushing the pace. It was an excellent course I really enjoyed the head scratch over possible route choices and where the check points had been placed. I got a score of 2380 – I cleared the northern course and then just ran out of time on the deliverance part so started dropping some of the outer lying ones such as 82, then 77, 59, 61, 63, 64 and couldn't quite get 53 before bailing back to start/finish. I haven't done a rogaine in 4 years – I'd forgotten how much fun they are.

Jerome Sheppard (3rd Challenge Rogaine): ... a fantastic event!

Alistair Cross (4th Challenge Rogaine): ... here's our course, 53, 54, 100, 55, 56, 101, 62, 64, 63, 57, 58, 60, 68, 77, 78, 69, 71, 72, 73, 75, 76, 82, 81, 70, 65, 66, 35, 34, 33, 102, 42, 41, 40, 32, 31, home

Great overall course with some challenging navigation in a few places. Fantastic to be well off road for most of it, and in gullies we commonly cross on other tracks but seldom venture in to.

Liz Nicholson (1st W40 once again): Thanks for the great event. The map is another beauty and I'd really like to revisit the area on a fine day to take advantage of the views! (All the way up to Wrights Hill and only cloud to see today.)

I learnt that my eyesight just isn't up to it now and I need the magnifying glass and glasses to read the map, even at 1;5000. It was interesting doing the first map mainly on distance between controls and vague map features of streams and green to decide route choice.

I'm really pleased if I have won the W40 grade, not bad for no exercise since Nationals at Easter. I'm suffering tonight with sore knees.

Thanks for all your time that you put into the event and the map.

Quotes

Now to sign of with some quotes about maps:

- **Chekov** "Admit it - we're lost!"
Zulu "Yes, but we are making good time..."
Star Trek - The Final Frontier.
- Have you still got that map?
Yeah Why?
It might be the piece of evidence that will get me off the murder charge!
Why?
When I get my hands on the SOB who drew that map I'm gonna kill him?

Chevy Chase - Funny Farm.

- 'As a poor map is a shabby collection of dangerous lies, so a good one is a thing of beauty and rugged integrity.'
Earl P. Hanson
- 'Not till we are lost... do we begin to understand ourselves.'
Henry David Thoreau
- If you're not sure where you're going, you're liable to end up someplace else.
- I have never been lost, but I will admit to being confused for several weeks.
Daniel Boone
- Leave the beaten track occasionally, and dive into the woods. You will be certain to find something that you have never seen before.
Alexander Graham Bell
- From a supermarket notice board:
'Wanted, by gent in his 60's (widower) still young at heart, a lady of similar age to share caravan holiday tour.
Only requirement - must be able to read a map.'
- **Madge Simpson** (trying to read a map) : 'I don't think this is the interstate.'
Homer Simpson derisively : 'Maps!'
Lisa Simpson (after the camper van falls over the cliff) :
'The Simpsons have entered the forest!'
The Simpsons on Holiday
- 'You took the wrong turn back there!'
'Well you took the turn with me, Miss Daisy, and you've got the map!'
Driving Miss Daisy
- **Jill** "I can't take any chances, I have to be there a couple of hours early."
Tim "I think you're forgetting who's got the radar-like sense of direction here." (As he walks towards the back door.)
Jill "Tim - the car's out front."
Home Improvement

Further Information About Karori

Karori Mountain Bike park and children's bike circuits:

<http://tracks.org.nz/area/show/6>

Karori:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karori>

Karori Park Loop Track:

<http://tracks.org.nz/track/show/315>

Wrights Hill Fortress:



Gun Pit



What the Gun looked like

<http://www.whfrs.org.nz/>

Wrights Hill Fortress was built in the 1940's as a long range coastal battery to protect Wellington city and environs from possible enemy attack and invasion from the Pacific in World War Two. The site was selected as early as 1935, but it wasn't until March 1942 that authority was given for work to proceed on the construction of three 9.2 inch guns. The guns of course never fired in anger but were test fired, each with three rounds, in 1946 and 47 after the War. The Army reported later that the "proofings," as they were called, were "most satisfactory". Broken windows resulted at the Fortress after the blasts.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wrights_Hill_Fortress

http://www.wellingtonnz.com/sights_activities/wrights_hill_fortress_and_recreation_reserve

<http://www.feelinggreat.co.nz/events//3409-wrights-hill-fortress-open-day>

Wrights Hill Tracks:

<http://tracks.org.nz/area/show/4>

<http://tracks.org.nz/track/show/186>

Karori History

<http://www.wcl.govt.nz/heritage/karori.html>

<http://www.karori-living.co.nz/history.html>

Deliverance Track:

http://trails.mtbr.com/cat/trails-around-the-world/asia-and-pacific-trails/trails-asia-and-pacific-other/trail/PRD_287749_4517crx.aspx

If you want it to be more difficult, just ride faster. Can get muddy after rain. Crosses through a very shallow creek on numerous occasions.

Good riders can probably do the track in 7-8 minutes. All in all, just a good fast downhill ride.