



Winter Classic and Wayne Cretney Memorial
21st August, 2011
25th Anniversary

Race Report: Auld Lang Syne

Map: Auld Lang Syne (for the sake of old times)

Organiser and Planner: Bryan Teahan

Why oh why do we keep on coming back for more pain? Because it's a kind of drug – you just have to find out where the masochistic course planner has set the controls don't you?

Thanks again to Alan for all the work he did as an organiser and helping put out some controls after I got a bit sick and to the Wellington club members for helping on the day.

Unlike last year, which was wet mapping, wet planning and wet on the day, this year was mainly dry – although the huge snowstorm a few days before the event made for some anxious moments as I thought maybe the streams might be too high. I already had set one of the loops to go near the bridges over the main stream. Instead of wet, wet, wet we can say the event was cool, cool, cool – cool in the streams, cool southerly along the top, and cool seeing the snow.



Johnston Hill

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 shrek-like sheep which I saw a few times on the map. I still cringe remembering the time I fell down a waterfall where I was very lucky to get away with only cuts and severe bruising. On the whole though, like all the maps I have done, I enjoyed mapping this area and exploring and finding cool features.

On the domestic front, life has to always continue at the same time. For the last few years, someone in the family has been sick, and this time was no different as I took 3 days off work in the week before the event – this was a bit lucky as it enabled me to catch up with the never-ending tasks required for a Winter Classic.

I hope you all slowed down on the skyline to see the marvellous views of Wellington and the wind turbines and the South Island and maybe to touch some leftover snow.

I wrote this next bit last year and the same still applies. Runnability is subjective and not all walk/fight areas were totally checked as it would have taken too long to map – ‘hic sunt dracones’. 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.

The map printing left a little bit to be desired as the walk green was very similar to the fight green. I’m sure some of you were cursing me out there but maybe if you look more closely you will see the fight green (which is the symbol for impenetrable). A new printer was used this year and in some early prints, bits of some courses didn’t get printed which I didn’t pick up but it didn’t affect the courses, thank goodness.

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 like last year, I was able to bring home for my son several balls in good condition – soccer balls and a cricket ball. We now have almost enough to outfit a soccer team.



Near Johnston's Hill after a snow fall.

This year, unlike last year, there was no street running but there was lots of path running in the cemetery. Even though times were a bit longer than last year, I think it was probably less physical as there were easier options most of the time. I'm sure you all enjoyed the challenge.

I was pleased that lots of people took many of the route choices I wanted them to take with many different routes chosen.

I hope you all enjoyed the extra food and cake for the 25th anniversary (thanks to my wife and son). Thanks to Liz Nicholson for being involved with all 25 events. Also thanks to Ray who came up from Nelson and for organising the first event all those years ago.

We had our own mascot for the event – a very friendly rooster who poked his nose in everywhere – he was not so welcome when he decided to do some droppings.

Numbers for the event were slightly down from last year – 136 compared to 141 and I knew several people who told me personally that they regretted not being able to make it this year.

A benefit of being so close to the city was that some people walked to the event.

Judging by most of the comments, I feel the event was just right for the 25th anniversary of the event with the appropriate map name – Auld Lang Syne (for the sake of old times), appropriate running through what must be the most picturesque Cemetery in the country, and appropriate controls and long courses in fitting memorial to Wayne, our other dear departed orienteers, and to our absent friends.

Maps and Courses

Results:

<http://www.winterclassic.co.nz/wc/results2011.html>

Splits:

<http://www.winterclassic.co.nz/wc/splits2011.htm>

Maps and Routes:

http://www.orienteeingresults.com/O/nzof/WinterClassic/maps/2011_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, I was happy to see that people tried most of the routes.

Nick's GPS routes are also shown, as well as David's routes on the maps and routes pages.

All the top runners on map 3, going from 5 to 6 took a different route.

Planner's picks: A D, F, H, J, L, N, Q, T, V, W, AA.

Comments

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

- 'It beat me this year'
- 'Best Winter Classic for five years'

- 'Tough one this year'
- 'Bit easier this year'
- 'I found another fenced enclosure not mapped'
- 'That wasn't open on the map – it was under trees'
- 'That wasn't a track' (for a route on the map)
- 'I bush-based for the last few metres for 10 minutes – it was solid fight and I came out right at the control' (sorry the map printing did not show the fight here)
- 'At control 70, there is something a little bit wrong with the map' (this was from a junior who was probably right).

It never ceases to amaze me that Orienteers in a few minutes racing around a control, can come back and inform me (the mapper who has spent a few hours mapping the same area) exactly what's wrong with it. And the disturbing part is that most of the time they are right.

Michelle Tom: (Wayne Cretney's daughter): 'I'm living in Christchurch now ... We're in limbo with our house right now - the concrete floor is broken in half and we're waiting to see if we have to repair or rebuild. It is still weather proof and liveable, so we're thankful for that at least.

Have taken the kids orienteering down here at a few family Papo events and was very keen to get back into it until the quakes. In fact we were at an event the weekend before the Feb shake. I'm not sure what the club is up to now, although some of their maps will be off limits with rockfall, I assume.

Thanks again for writing the tribute piece about Dad all those years ago. You may not realise how much it means, but the fact that he is still remembered really does help.

Liz Nicholson (Involved in all 25 Winter Classics):

Thanks for the great course and map. I think the 25th anniversary tops the list for me. We were promised 'something special' for the 25th anniversary and Bryan certainly delivered.

Another superb map that surprised us all with the gems that Wellington can offer 5-10 minutes drive from the CBD. The day started off great; beautiful fine day, a quick catch up with friends and before you know it's 10am the crazy start of competitors looking at maps and turning 180's before charging uphill or launching themselves over the edge. My first loop was west through the cemetery and up the first of many slippery slopes to number 1. The loop went okay apart from over running the attach point to no4. My glasses were still fogged up and the map a blur unless I stood in the sunshine and tilted the map just so and the light revealed the detail.

Loop2 had a slow start as I wasn't too keen on disappearing over the side until I was sure 'this was the place'. I eventually did only to get my o pants (and undies) hooked up on some plastic wire netting. It took a bit of jiggling and reversing back uphill to get unhooked. All went well after that and I enjoyed that patch of bush.

Map 2 went well for the orienteering part. A few uncontrolled slides down hill kept the heartbeat up. The last control before the map changed signalled the start of the BIG problems. I overshot the last control crossing a fence before crossing back over to the control. I remember thinking only one map to go, I don't feel too bad physically – who said you need to train?

Well Map 3 and the final loop, the wobbly legs set in going up the stream heading to no1. I suddenly felt exhausted, maybe I wasn't over the nasty virus that flattened me a couple of weeks back and having a bit of fitness would certainly have helped. Not to worry I was a survivor of 24 previous Winter Classics so I'd take it easy and aim to finish. For leg 5-6 I decided to run down the spur in the farmland and along the tracks to the stream that would lead me straight to the control. All good until half way up the stream and a major 'Minutes moment' occurs. I slip and fall very heavily bashing my bad knee (that's the one I'm too young to have a knee replacement for), and whacking my jaw on a rock that made my ear sting. I'm now in the very cold stream thinking 'They won't find me here!' After a few moments to assess the injuries I reckon the best thing is to carry on and the pain should subside after awhile. After an extreme bush bash (crawl) towards no6 my spirits were lifted when the last push through the gorse, thinning and regen bush revealed the control. Fantastic...spot on couldn't have pinpointed it better if I tried.

No7 okay just feeling super tired. 7-8 bad bad route choice. Now the brain has packed it in and I head off to attempt a navigation of the waterfalls that Bryan warned us about. That was very scary and I somehow managed to make it over to the green spur and down to the steam junction. What a dumb thing to do, silly silly route choice. 8-9 had to ask for help when I came out on the road by the cemetery as I couldn't figure things out myself. Eventually made it to the finish minus my E-card lost somewhere on the last loop. Just in time to cut the cake.

Will I be back next year? I think so.

**Ray Nicholson: (Early organiser):
'On Reflection'**

After enduring the 25th Anniversary event I can understand why I was the organiser/planner and general dog's body for many of those early events!! You have to admire BT for his ongoing commitment to the event, which involves not only course setting and mapping but juggling his family life so a special thanks to his wife and young son for supporting him. (I can relate to this with Liz and my two sons loaded up off to another WC in the middle of a Wairarapa forest in the middle of winter)

I have just spent some time looking back over the old results and saw that some of New Zealand's top orienteer's came and some cases failed to finish what have to be some of the most gruelling single person relays(blodslit)
For those of you who are not familiar with the history of the Winter Classic it started out as a tri series between Hawke's Bay, Red Kiwis and Wairarapa Clubs which provided some great competition and commaradie over those early years with many

people still travelling to attend events when it became a single event. A few of the early events were set by Kelvin Hoy from the comfort of his London home with many anxious moments waiting for the courses to arrive so that I could field check his courses. We had a great little team of volunteers who all helped to make the event what it is today.

I guess the location of the modern events is a sign of the times where you are trying to get the best return on your investment (the Map) and whilst it is a little sad to see the event shift to Wellington, It has had an increase in numbers of people competing with the introduction of the rogaine section. Which reminded me of the Mountain Marathons and correct me if I am wrong was this something that Wayne Cretney introduced up in the Holdsworth area, now that was some event!!

One of the things we did back in the original events was to not have everyone running the last map together so it made it really exciting to see who would appear out of the forest from the last control to the finish with some very tight finishes, but I am sure for those at the finish area it was interesting seeing who would return the victor.

Thank goodness for modern printing methods imaging having to draw all those courses by hand for the 100 plus competitors as we did back in the late eighties . And finally my thoughts on the course it was tough!! But I expected nothing less. With the biggest challenge being to complete no matter how long it took. I did it my way (these were the words from song as I recall from Wayne's funeral as he departed the church) and I think some of my choices were exactly that.

John Bockock: 'Thanks for another great challenge. Your map was a superb rendition of the area and must have taken an age to prepare. Jen , Zoe and I enjoyed the challenge and look forward to recovering in time for next year !'

Yvette Baker (Winner, W21A):' I've just been for a run up there, along an old track that you'd mapped and I never knew existed. Wonderful. Legs very sore!

Thanks for another great and memorable Winter Classic. It was easily the toughest out of the three I have run, I'm sure in part due to my misguided route from 5-6 on map 3 when I almost lost the will to live trying to crack branches to force a way to crawl up through the bush! But great course, thanks for putting in so much effort surveying and finding all the nice bits (I love the pine forest on the ridges) and little tracks. I now have even more running options out the back of my house - which is on the map and backs on to the cemetery.

I'll be back next year. Keep it long, tough and do-able. It's a challenge worth doing. I admire Wayne though sadly never met him. He must've been some guy.

A few route comments, feel free to use any or none of them in your reports:

Map 1:

1-2 Went down and up track. Seemed like the obvious route at the time, but possibly quicker up to road and down.

4-5 Struggled to get down from 4, and ended up in stream before getting to track. Lost time here.

7-8 The northern route

8-9 Down to the nice little track and down ridge to control

10-11 Across the river and track all the way to the bridge. My favourite track in the cemetery.

11-12 Popped out in cemetery directly South of control, so round tracks to South became obvious option.

Map 2:

1-2 Tracks first South then North of line

2-3 Tracks to North side of lawn cemetery. A bit slow going into control as there was no light yellow

4-5 Down to track, following little track up stream, and across to reentrent. Had to go reentrent down to find control.

5-6 Longest route on tracks going up to the West. Felt like a good choice. I often run down trough these pines on my way home from Johnston Hill. Had never encountered the track to the East before.

6-7 Came off track above no. 7 a bit too far along, so had to back track down to control a bit.

7-8 Almost went down to the East , but familiarity won, so it was back up and over. Again, happy with this route. Much prefer coming down into control than up.

11-12 Got to control 18 before realising my error. So it was a horrible slog back up through the bush to the track, and all the way round to 12

17-18 Much better route second time round. Went down round the tracks to the East as the first time I'd taken the top track, down through the bush, then discovered how close the control was actually to the stream.

18-19 Started to go straight and then quickly back tracked down to the stream and along tracks to East of the line. Starting to get tired by this time and not pre planning routes properly.

Map 3:

A bit of a gulp when I picked it up. I assumed we'd still got to go on the top, but it was going to be a bit of a slog to get there!

S-1 Came down to stream wrongly - to the East of the stream junction. Wasn't sure which side of the junction I was and took the wrong option, going a little way down stream to the East before turning round and heading back up.

2-5 Lovely running along the tops. Great views. I often run along this ridge as it's much more satisfying than sticking to the track below.

5-6 Wrong route: Down towards no.1, down track, up through felled pines to disused track. A bit of a struggle moving a long track, but nothing compared with the thrashing involved following the track after crossing the stream and then up through the thick (very thick) bush. Reasons for taking this route: 1) I was a bit tired, and the other obvious route along the tops would require more uphill running! 2) I knew there was a disused track in the pines there, but had never been along it, so was interested to see what it was like! 3) I thought one little bit of uphill bush couldn't be

TOO bad! Sometimes, I ran the high option this morning, lovely route down through the pines, but how on earth did you find a connection up out the top?!

7-8 Dropped down onto the track, left at the junction following the track up towards Otari Wilton Bush and then down through the light green. This time, I popped right out at the control, very pleased to be able to follow the lie of the land, and have a fairly easy 'run' down through the light green bush.

8-9 Straight down to the stream. Once again, wasn't quite sure which side of the stream junction I was, so fuffed about going the wrong way a bit. Then back down to the stream junction and straight up to no.9.

9-10 Overshot no.10 running along cemetery tracks - too nice being on the track - and had to double back.

Very relieved to be at the finish. A memorable Winter Classic! Thanks once again for all the time you put into it.

Nick Hann (1st, M21A)

Wasn't very focused going into the race so as a result I made lots of silly mistakes at the beginning of the course and couldn't get into the map.

Map 1

Started off with James so I pushed it a little at the beginning to show him I had this race and kept in the lead. Didn't read the map enough though and got caught out by a dead end. Did a full face plant off a cliff at 2 and lost my compass so I did the rest of the classic without it. Difficult climbing the bank from the stream after 3, and made a silly decision on 5, taking the wrong cemetery road. Cut in to the wrong re-entrant on 7, but thought I was in the right and lost a lot of time here, including climbing the slippery bank back out of it. Simple controls back to the pivot

Spiked 13 and ran low on 14 as it looked like a better entry into the control than the upper route, which also had a large bush climb. Slow into 17, spiked 20.

Map 2

Simple routes 1-3, but overshot 3 after climbing the bank. Slow through 5 and 6. Attacked the course through this section as it was really fast but quite easy to overshoot controls, and I wanted to increase my lead. Ran too low on 13, cutting directly south and contouring would have saved some time. Difficult entry into 14, hard to tell how far around the track I'd run. Mostly straight to 15 and 16. Took the most obvious route to 17 staying low but keeping to fast areas. Worried I was going to miss the indistinct track though. Took the easy option to 21.

Map 3

Dropped in too low on 3 as I was confused about the extra re-entrants not shown. Also didn't have a solid attack-point on 5. Tried to cut down the gully to 6, but it was full of ongaonga. Glad I didn't though, running the top was definitely best. Tricky picking the spur on 8 and I overshot it. Found a large area of fuff while climbing to 9, and mucked 10 thinking it was in the re-entrant.

Attacked the hills a little hard and wrecked my quads by the end. Should have slowed a fraction in the beginning to get my head into the race.

Magnus Bengtsson (2nd, M21A):

(Letters for route choices are in reference to the route choice map – see the Maps and Routes link above)

C, was tempted by B but it was slippery going up to 51.

North of the houses to 53, would probably been better to go south.

Pure luck finding 56, was reading the map to 57.

50 -> 39, Didn't see the path up to the cemetery (even if I just went on it over the creek). Didn't want to bush bash so back over the creek and around on the path past 31, stupid.

D

42-43 Didn't see the small track so I crossed the creek and followed the path most of the way.

J

M, Did regret this at the hair-pin corner. But the circular cemetery was looking really nice...

Back up to the road to 36, took a while to get up.

Planned to go F but changed my mind just be for the paths split so G.

N

Lost about a minute on 62 (to high).

R* Ran down the spur and past 65, feeling great. Was debating if it was because of the pines and the downhill. The uphill just after confirmed this was the case.

Lost another minute on 77. Voice from some rogainers made me stay on the track for too long, ended up coming down the earthbank west of the control and even that I knew I was to far to the west I still had to just check further up.

T was the plan but ended up almost down by the white reentrant by 76. Made a big mistake up to the control even after I took a compass bearing. Went way too much to the west, guess it might have been the possum-line the made me do this.

Relocated by the broken fence 3 contours to far up, and yes the dark green is dark green.

Got stuck on the way to 60 for a couple of secs...

V - stay out of the green...

Looking at W but was afraid that I wouldn't find the track so went for Z and all the way down to 68. But at least I didn't have to look at the map a single time for the next leg.

AC, less risk.

Route between 50-39, 79-78 and control 77, 78 will bug me for awhile but besides from those a quite good race without running like a total maniac. Could have done another loop...

Mark Hooker (Winner, Challenge Rogaine, Mixed):

We started off grabbing some 30- and 40-pointers near the rugby club then headed across the stream to grovel through mud and rubbish on the Northland side. It beggars belief that people would through so much rubbish over the bank, and obviously over such a long time! We had plenty of company to sidle around the slippery hillside with.

After that we crossed the bridge, grabbed 50 and headed up the ridge to bag the 70-pointers in solitude along the Skyline Ridge (partly because we wanted to get out into the glorious sunshine!) That took us to the halfway point in the race and we headed back via a loop of 60-pointers in the middle of the map and a final dash picking up 30- and 40- pointers around the cemetery.

In the end we missed 69 and the cluster of controls out the SW corner of the map.

We enjoyed the bush-bashiness of it (Sylvia now has sore arms) but perhaps not the best course to use a thumb compass for the first time since I needed both hands at times!

Thanks for a fun event and the chocolates.

Jerome Sheppard (3rd, Challenge Rogaine, Mixed):

Just a quick note to say thank you to you and your helpers for such a fantastic event. I know how much work is involved to provide such an interesting and exciting course. Jill and I had a great time out there. It was perfect navigation practice for us as we are heading off (with Colin Slater and Dave Rudge) to do the XPD 5-10 day adventure race in Tasmania in November. The perfect weather, technical terrain and nice slippery course added to the fun.

David King (1st, M40A):

With snow on the ground in downtown Wellington 5 days earlier it was looking like the emphasis would be on "Winter" for the 2011 Winter Classic. The last two years have been physical affairs literally on the back doorsteps of Wellington residents. Steep bush clad gullies with plenty of brute force moving the bush aside needed on those occasions.

This year residents however were more of the prone variety (Karori Cemetery) and the mix of the grid of the cemetery with more of that fantastic Wellington native regenerating bush meant the challenge would equal its predecessors'. Fortunately the snow, then hail, then horizontal rain and finally gale force winds had given way to an largely fine day with just the right temperature for some vigorous orienteering.

Largely sorted for the start and with maps handed out the final warning was issued regarding the steepness of the terrain especially for those heading literally off the edge of the carpark! 30 seconds later and I was sliding down the greasy hill grasping at saplings to decelerate. Magnus and Yvette were in front so I was in good company. Second control was a muddy uphill and decided to reverse back down rather than continue up. Was counting on the track surface to be better running than the greasy surface in the bush. This would be the last I would see of Magnus until 2 and a half hours later.

Leaving the 4th control brought back the setters warnings yet again. I strayed too far off the spur into the gully. Dick Dinsdale shouted from below that I would be best to not attempt it,

he meant the vertical waterfall I was standing atop. I scurried across the stream to find a way down (vertical holding on to the flora). Yvette had of course made the sensible track down the spur and we met again at the next control. From here it was a easy run up the track and to the pivot.

The second loop crossed the maze of paths into the cemetery proper before finding more greasy bush. Leaving control 10 I needed 3 attempts to gain the bank on the west side of the stream to head up the track to number 11. Some confusion here as to when to cross back but once over the stream again the control found me. A sprint up onto the paths and through the cemetery again to 12. Leaving this control presented a problem as the lines of the paths were perpendicular to the direction of travel. A bit of weaving and back on track. A straight run through the next 3 controls to the map change.

A lot of time lost faffing with the control card elastic (may have been resting a bit as well) and then off on map 2. This time the loops looked serious in the steeper bush above the cemetery. Took the rather steep option to the pivot control as was trying to separate from any remaining runners on my loop. This would be the last time anyone was in sight for me till near the end. After the pivot I decided to try out the dashed track to see if it would be useful as it would come into play again later on the same map. It proved to be easy travel up a fresh track with a somewhat soft surface but still easy going. The big route choice came up once control 5 was punched. Stick on tracks and go high? or head low and venture into the green? Thinking about the fact there was still another map and plenty of steep terrain, decided on the energy conserving, but riskier, low route. It proved to be quite straightforward with a little battling with the supplejack vines the only delay to control 6.

Didn't see the track option to below control 7 so attacked it from above with some spectacular sliding only to literally drop out across from the control. A clean run to the next control and decision time again. Decided best the devil you know (and conserve energy) and take the low route. Dropping down the dashed track towards the houses and Malcolm and Rob were climbing towards me. First encounter of someone on my course for some time. I assumed they had done the other loop first and were heading out the long loop last. Possibly distracted, I missed the next track junction. What was indistinct on the way up now became vague at best. and I ran past only to see some rogainers coming up in time to catch myself.

A grovel up to 9 from below and missed the track to above 10 so came in from below again. And a sprint down the now familiar dashed track to the pivot. Getting somewhat familiar with the area now the 12/13/14/15/16 loop sailed by very quickly. Once at the pivot again it was time to venture into the unknown, heading to the remote map change and the final map. Made a complete hash of approaching 19 from the east as with it down in the pit and not visible until I went high and circled down again. Ran to the map change with Gillian and then off on the last map.

Uphill! Well to be expected in Wellington so after a less than graceful plunge into the stream below the map change it was off to clear blue skies. Relatively easy run up to the first control and then out onto the farmland on the skyline. Good run here, with the only distraction being Shrek's whanau. They looked equally over burdened as he did (and yet only a few feet from a city?).

It was decision time again, stay high and come down on the control? or head down onto the paths? Not sure I would make the vague path and dark green decided to play safe and head down. Little did I know my poor eyesight had missed the dark green inside the circle! Fast

run to the stream to the north below the control but things went pear shaped here. Hands and knees grovelling for what felt like 10 minutes finally allowed me to finally stand up only to find the control right in front of me! I would like to say it was skill but from on the ground and on your stomach I wouldn't be so sure. The safe exit, which probably was also the safe entry, saw Magnus again after some hours of running. Easy run to 7 and another decision.

Having been stung by the green only recently I was keen to avoid it as much as possible so followed Magnus back up into the cemetery and past control 9 to head back down (and up) to 8. Back again to 10 (slightly tricky with the vegetation boundary not so distinct) and home. No idea of where I had placed but glad to be back.

Overall it was as physical as it gets but oddly I found the navigation a little better than the previous years. Could be getting use to the steep bush clad Wellington gullies? At least it wasn't a couple of seconds in it this time as that 50 metres sprint to the finish would have killed me.

Paul Dalton (Winner, M50A):

After two DNF's in the previous two years on the M40 course, I decided that M50 (Course 3) had to be the order of the day this year. Thank goodness for that decision as I now look at the results.....Bryan once again delivered an event truly worthy of Wayne!!

Map 1

I started with the cemetery first, and a big bunch who tracked through the first four controls. I made a complete mess of No.5 getting the map disoriented and going off down the wrong road (with a few others!!) but then was clean back to the start/ finish but Russell was now the only person with me.....had everyone else left us behind? The short (albeit steep) loop in the gully was tight but the accurate map meant I did not make any mistakes. So far so good, but I was now on my own and no idea how everyone else was getting on.

Map 2

After enjoying the first few cemetery legs it was into the bush loop, and a nice clean block of pines it turned out to be. It was rather a shock to unfold the map and suddenly see that the last control wasn't back at the event centre.....so that was what Bryan was talking about.....I had hoped that was only on courses 1 & 2!!

I would have been quite happy if the course had finished then, but on I went, with a couple of very safe track routes to get 13 and 14 and then on to the map change.

Map 3

I can't repeat the words I said when I first turned this over - there was nowhere to hide from the climb or the bush bashing now!! And to kick it off I made a silly mistake of going too far down the stream looking for a safe place to cross, completely missing the stream on the other side I had to climb up. A bit of swearing and then a very steep hill to clamber up to the control. It was a pleasant change doing the 4 legs out on the farmland but it only led closer to having to make the biggest route choice of the day on leg 5-6. It was a tough call - normally I would go round the farmland tops and down but I didn't want to take the risk of not finding the indistinct track leading into the strip of pines (little did I know it was taped) so I opted for the longer route of track running to the gully below the control and fighting

my way up. And fight it was - crawling for most of it through very low and thick scrub and while it may have only been 50 metres on paper it felt like 500m!! It was with no small relief that I finally popped out onto the ridge to find myself within 10 feet of the control.....my lotto ticket was doomed after that.....!d used up all my luck for the day!!

By now the body was beyond it's normal 'use by' time, so it was safe route choices to finish off, and 7-8 was one I really had to get right. The plan was to avoid all the green stuff so I went round via No.9 and that worked well in terms of having a good attack point. But the hills seemed twice as steep as the map suggested they should be and when I finally hauled my way up to where I thought no.8 should be I couldn't see it anywhere. In the end I wandered around in a big enough circle to run across it, but not without plenty of cursing. To add insult to injury I compounded that error by completely messing up 8-9, despite just having to backtrack the way I had already come and causing myself some dents and bruises going down a dangerously steep hill 90 degrees in the wrong direction. When I finally got to the stream at the bottom I had definitely lost my sense of humour and a fair bit of skin.

But that was the end of the bush, and after not seeing anyone for most of the last hour there were now a few more people around. The last couple of controls were light relief, and the finish line was a pleasant sight indeed! It was disappointing to end with a couple of significant errors, but I should probably have carried my Leppin squeezies with me rather than have them sitting nicely waiting for me with my water bottle at the finish!! At 2 1/2 hours that was the longest run for the year and my brain clearly needed some help in the last half hour!!

Thanks once again to Bryan for the incredible amount of work that went into the mapping and course setting. The map detail was excellent, particularly considering the nature of the terrain, the control placement was spot on which is critical in low visibility bush terrain and the course setting top notch with some great route choice options. And thank goodness we had avoided the weather of the previous week!!

It was great to be part of the 25th Anniversary event - I don't know if I'll be able to make the 50th, but I'll certainly be back for another crack at it next year!!

Quotes

Now to sign off with some quotes and references about maps:

- **"Here be dragons"**

The phrase "Here Be Dragons" (or hic sunt dracones) appears on maps such as the Lenox Globe (from early 1500s) and is now considered to be map shorthand for Here Be Other Stuff We Don't Quite Know About, rather than a claim to have seen a fire-breathing monster. Usually placed to fill whitespace (un-known uncharted lands or seas) on old maps.

<http://www.virginmedia.com/digital/features/how-did-we-ever-believe-that.php?ssid=8>

(I think for some Winter Classics, the phrase 'here be dragons' is pretty apt)

- As the Elizabethan Blackadder is preparing to sail around the world he's told:

“The foremost cartographers of the land have prepared this for you; it's a map of the area that you'll be traversing. [Blackadder opens it up and sees it is blank] -They'll be very grateful if you could just fill it in as you go along”

- As WWI Blackadder is crossing no-mans land to spy on the Germans:

Blackadder: “Now, where the hell are we?”

George: “Well, it's difficult to say, we appear to have crawled into an area marked with mushrooms.”

Blackadder: [patiently] “What do those symbols denote?”

George: “It says "mine". So, these mushrooms must belong to the man who made the map.”

Blackadder: “Either that, or we're in the middle of a mine-field.”

George: “So, he owns the field as well?”

- At army HQ:

General: Where's my map. Ah.... God, it's a barren, featureless desert out there, isn't it.

Captain (whispering): Other side sir.

- At army HQ:

General: “Look, this is the amount of land we've recaptured since yesterday. Erm, what is the actual scale of this map, Darling?”

Captain: “Erm, one-to-one, Sir.”

Melchett: “Come again?”

Captain: “Er, the map is actually life-size, Sir. It's superbly detailed. Look, look, there's a little worm.”

General: “Oh, yes. So the actual amount of land retaken is?”

[Captain whips out a tape measure and measures the table.]

Captain: “Seventeen square feet, Sir.”

General: “Excellent. So you see those young men didn't die horribly in vain after all.”

- Question: Why can fish measure distances so well?

Answer: Because they have their own scales.

- “I am told there are people who do not care for maps, and I find it hard to believe.” —**Robert Louis Stevenson, Treasure Island**

Further Information:

Karori Cemetery details:

Karori Cemetery is New Zealand's second largest burial ground, covering nearly 40 hectares. It was the final resting place of about 80,000 people. The cemetery was established in 1891 to replace the overcrowded Bolton Street Cemetery. The cemetery filled quickly and by the 1950s had nearly reached maximum capacity.

Karori Cemetery's crematorium was New Zealand's first crematorium and is the oldest in Australasia, opening in 1909. It carries out about 450 cremations a year. The cemetery is now being developed into a heritage park.

<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/karoricemetery/karoricemetery.html>

Karori Cemetery conservation plan:

<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/pdfs/karoricemeteryconservationplan.pdf>

Karori cemetery map:

<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/pdfs/karori-map.pdf>

Penguin walk: (Karori Cemetery heritage trail)

There are some graves in the cemetery from the wreck of the Penguin 12 Feb 1909 (72 lives lost in Cook Strait compared with Wahine disaster Apr 1968 where 51 lives were lost)

<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/pdfs/penguinwalk.pdf>

Warriors Walk: (Karori Cemetery heritage trail)

<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/pdfs/warriorwalk.pdf>

Otari-Wilton's bush:

<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/gardens/otariwiltonsbush/pdfs/otari-forest-tracks.pdf>

Tracks near Karori Cemetery:

<http://tracks.org.nz/track/show/573>

Ian Galloway Park:

'the home of Western Suburbs Rugby'

<http://www.wests-junior-rugby.org.nz/events/team-day/22-ian-galloway-park.html>

Johnston Hill Track: (lovely scenic sights of Wellington and the South Island)

<http://dayout.co.nz/attractions/attraction.aspx?attractionId=3176>

Skyline Track:

<http://tracks.org.nz/track/show/32>

Daywalk: Walking the Skyline Walkway:

<http://www.windy.gen.nz/index.php/archives/187>

