

Next Issue  
May 12<sup>th</sup>

# A Load of Old Quocs

DRONGO - THE ORIENTEERING CLUB FOR CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI



Year 22?, No. n+7

Stockholm, Tuesday, 9 February 2010

www.drongo.org.uk

## Editor's Column

The thought of sending out DrongO Christmas cards has first surfaced two years ago. I was updating the members' list when I tried to think of a reason why it may be useful. Careful readers will have spotted the card threat on the address list page.

Last year, I finally send out the first DrongO Xmas card. It is hand-crafted and turned out to be a bit more elaborate, which is why I only found the time to create one card. However, it is designed to be reused and to be sent onwards to a different member each year. And each year, I plan to create another one. This way, in about 220 years, all of us will receive a Christmas card from a fellow DrongO.

Eric Roller

## WANTED: New Blood

by Eric Roller

I am entering my last year as a newsletter editor and hope you have enjoyed the experience as much as I have. Unlike our friends at JOK, who have recently scrapped their newsletter (!), I trust one of you will step forward and volunteer to keep this publication alive for the next generation of DrongOs.

## Varsity Match 2010

*Penhale Sands and Polly Joke, Cornwall.*

The date has now been decided: 6-7 March (the same date as originally proposed). We are also reminded that "*Penhale is being used for all three days of the Tamar Triple on 29-31 May 2010. Anybody who runs on Penhale at the Varsity Match **must** declare themselves non-competitive if they enter the Tamar Triple.*"

Recent Varsity Matches have seen a rise in the number of DrongO participants. In fact we won over JOK last year and there is hope that this trend will continue ...

All the event information is now available on the [JOK site for the VM](#), complete with terrain descriptions and map samples (but if you want to see the maps in their entirety, click on the links in the title).

If you haven't already entered yet, send your details to [Scott Collier](#).

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds!

### HOW DO I SUBSCRIBE?

Simple, keep your email address up-to-date on the [DrongO members' list](#):  
[www.drongo.org.uk](http://www.drongo.org.uk)  
(click on mailing list "information page").

[I had been seriously considering to attend but discovered that the date clashes with our warm-weather training camp in Spain. Sorry. Ed.]

### IDENTIFY THIS DRONGO:

Hint: A hot lad who likes to stay cool.



It's rumoured that sucking on a copper penny will cause a breath-analyzer to read 'o'.

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## VARSITY MATCH QUIZ: A PLANNERS NIGHTMARE

Looking forward to the upcoming Varsity Match? Don't answer now — read this first!

Over the years one gets to hear many behind-the-scenes stories of past Varsity Matches. Or one is “lucky” enough to be cast for the “leading role”.

Below are a selection of such incidences that may or may not have happened at one or more Varsity Matches during the last ten years.

Judge for yourself: find 5 items that did not happen. Their letters form an orienteering term.

Email your clue to us together with a little story about yourself and a major donation to DrongO's race funds. Closing date is VM day 1. A prize may await the lucky winner at the anniversary dinner.

**M** A week before the VM, the planner discovers that the forestry commission has felled a section of forest that all courses must pass.

**H** On the way to the forest, the planner's car breaks down. Luckily, the OUOC minibus was right behind him when it happened.

**F** The CUOC minibus gets stuck in the snow and Cambridge fails to turn up for the Varsity Match. The race is postponed to the following day.

**I** Of the 3 club volunteers who had promised to test-run the courses an hour before the race, none turn up.

**H** 4 inches of new snow over night. The entire forest is covered in white. Navigation becomes a mere footprint-following exercise.

**L** Everything is ready to go and all SI units have been put out. When the first runners come back, we learn that as many as 4 SI units have died. A fifth unit only works for about half of the competitors.

**O** The race is already in full swing when the planner's wrist watch dies. And, yes, there was no other watch with the official race time.

**E** There is a very adapt planner and a trustworthy organiser (both of which are one and the same person), but alas, there is no controller. What can possibly go wrong?

**S** One of the Port-a-Loos topples over with a CUOC runner inside. We shall keep reminding him/her about it for the rest of our lives...

**N** The organiser has set up a printer for results and split times. As luck has it, the printer never spits out a single page ... because its cable was never hooked up to the PC.

**R** In the assembly field, the results tent is blown away. During the turmoil that follows, three runners finish without getting their correct time recorded.

**K** When the race is over, the planner discovers that a SportIdent unit in the finish had been misconfigured. It takes the most part of an hour to decipher the irregularities.

**D** Too much of the same sh... The septic tank is full and the toilets in the accommodation are flooded.

**A** The organiser accidentally drops his laptop. The data cannot be recovered in time for the VM dinner.

**L** VM dinner: the tagliatelle pasta is overcooked into mush. A rare delicacy. Or is it a regular VM occurrence?

**T** The Varsity Match dinner is over, everything is cleaned up and you are ready to lock up the hall, but not without setting off the burglar alarm...

Cat urine glows under a black-light!

# Bits & Pieces

*News from DrongOs around the globe*

EDMUND WARD

... has survived Japan and is now in Sydney where he is working as Policy Officer at the Australian Institute of Policy & Science. *"At the moment I go from one year to the next unsure about which continent I'll be on, so can't commit to organising an event for next year, ..."*

TIM LENTON

[Sunday morning, 6 December. I am driving to a club-fun-rogame when I hear a news item featuring Tim Lenton on Swedish National Radio. Ed.]

It turns out, [Tim has recently been interviewed by the Financial Times](#) about his academic work on [climate change and his personal efforts](#). They have visited him in his home in Norwich and tell us that he is a *"keen cyclist, but also drives a Renault Clio. [He spends his] holidays in the UK, but his wife is from New Zealand so they are using up a hefty dose of 'love miles' this Christmas to see [her] family."*

CHRIS MARSH

... became father to a baby girl on Saturday [Jan, 23rd]. Her name is Clara. We were spared a photo of the occasion.

Readjusting his priorities, he did not take part in the Box Hill Fell Race, whereas ...

NIGEL WHITEOAK

... did take part, *"but my performance wasn't one to write home about. Give me a map and I'm bad. Remove the need for a map altogether and I'm terrible."*

He has also moved house (within Richmond).

BLANKA COLLIS(OVA?)

... is secretly infiltrating JOK and OUOC, for instance by attending their training sessions. *"Today's circuit session, courtesy of Jon [Marsden], involved memorising the legs of the M18L/M45L/M50L Battersea Park Sprint event from the world cup races during the rest periods and trying to remember it through the 45s of exercising until the next rest period."*

[This reminds me of the intervals that we used to do on Lamas Land: you had 15 seconds to memorise the order of five controls in the rest period and then visit them running the intervals. When you came back, you had to memorise another random order. Ed.]

MATT MAHR

has received excellent critique for his courses at last year's [street orienteering race in Venice](#) (making us wish we could have come). Most people appear to have enjoyed the route choice options for his [2.2km long leg straight across the entire map](#). Well done Matt! When did you plan on telling us about it?

ALISTAIR HINDLE

We heard last year: *"I have got back into orienteering recently and might well make it to the VM."* But now he is more tempted to do the Scottish Sprint Champs, (possibly also the British Night Champs on the evening before) which are only 2 miles from where he lives.

We also hear rumours of GPS tracking devices and regular training. Watch out for him on M35S at the J.K.!

Men are 6 times more likely to be struck by lightning than women!

NICOLA ROBERTSON

is *"working as an Audiologist in London and still orienteering occasionally. Alex Copley would be pleased that I am running more: my twin-sister and fellow orienteer Suzy and I have taken on the challenge of the Virgin London Marathon. We are raising money for Marie Curie Cancer Care in memory of our very good friend Toby who passed away in May last year. If any kindhearted DrongOs would like to sponsor us, our fundraising website is:"*  
<http://original.justgiving.com/nicolaandsuzy>

## JK Relay

by Eric Roller

Let's have a team!

JK TROPHY? SHORT?

Let me know if you were keen to be part of it. I am happy to run the first or last long leg. Vacancies are open for the short and the other long leg

Ben? Matt? Mark? Alistair? Nigel? Steve? Dave? Chris? You?

Deadline for cheap entries is 7 March (£33 / team). Let me know a.s.a.p.

WOMENS' TROPHY? SHORT?

Get together! I want to see your messages on the mailing list!

Cath? Blanka? Viv? Jenny? Rosemary? Emma? Nicole? You?

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Another one of Nigel Whiteoak's classic "oltraspurt" ads (I retyped the text for better readability). This one is from 1996. The joke strikes home on a contraption that Eric Roller used to use in an attempt to keep his Polar HRM belt from slipping down. Yes, it's true!



FIND THE HIDDEN MESSAGES

Get the extra insight by finding these details:

- Eric's nationality
- His body shape
- The recommended oltraspurt body shape
- His result at the VM in Fountainbleau
- His fetching hair band [I still have that!]
- His cleavage [pardon?]
- His sexual preferences [sorry?]

OL SUDOKU

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You're born with 300 bones, but when you get to be an adult, you only have 206!  
Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2-6 years of age.

DLOG<sup>1</sup>: RANTS FROM A GRUMPY OLD FELLOW**LOVE THY ENEMY**

Twenty years ago, from the perspective of a fresh CUOC member, one could be forgiven to think that there was a horrid resentment towards that club on the other side: Oxford.

It was never a big issue, but that kind of feeling poisoned the air in the weeks before every Varsity Match. If nothing else, one had to “join forces against the common enemy”.

It being difficult to quickly overcome one’s preconceptions, it was a natural result that the VM parties always started with two camps on either side of the hall. As if separated by an invisible force field. One was sitting there, drinking beer and chatting quietly. The music was playing and everyone was waiting for the first people to start dancing. Thanks to the magic properties of alcohol (when consumed in moderate quantities) these parties always finished in a high spirit, but it always took a bit of time before the ice was broken.

Once you got to know the people on the other side, one discovered how silly the rivalry had been.

Since these dark ages, we have seen a lot of positive signals. I think the historic turning point was when CUOC first invited Oxford to join them for their annual training tour in the Lakes. This was a gutsy move to reach out and to start building bridges across the chasm.

Today, visiting the Varsity Match is like going to a training tour with your dearest friends. The race appears to have become less important. What matters more are the quality of the terrain, the challenge of the courses, and the feeling of comradeship. And, of course, the party afterwards.

Yes, there is a trophy for the winning club, but we have started to think more of the people who earned it, rather than their club.

The only remaining division exists in the boundaries of our clubs and the membership rules that we are required to enforce. I envision a time when we will be able to tear down those walls too, at least for the alumni. With dwindling numbers of participants, we may soon fall below critical mass and joining together DrongO and JOK could be a solution that brings us together with the friends we already have and love.

I must be getting soft.

[In absence of your contribution,  
this space was intentionally left blank]

<sup>1</sup> Dlog. noun. A log of an old DrongO member. Origin: a shortening of DrongO Log. Derivatives: Dlogger