Orienteering Hutt Valley

Presidents Report 2019

2019 has been another successful year for Orienteering Hutt Valley. We have run 22 events since the last AGM (last year 20), consisting of 9 Foot Orienteering, 8 after work rogaines with one more to come , The Big Trig, 4 MTBO events as well as a number of smaller training style events. Club members have competed on the international stage with some great results. Membership is strong and the club is in a sound financial position.

Firstly Foot Orienteering – we have run 13 events since the last AGM, consisting of 3 CSW events, 1 OY, 2 Winter Score events, 2 OMax events before Xmas, 2 Summer Sprints after, 2 events at Chainsaw and a Multi sprint at Wainui. Average participation was 75 starters – the most being for the CSW event at Belmont Bunkers with 193 participants (last years highest was 164) and the least being 22 for the rerun of the Chainsaw event. These are good numbers. Michael Wood also ran a number of U Max, do it yourself style events on weekends when there were no other events scheduled. While the numbers for these events are small it is good to see our maps being used.

Rogaines – 8 After Work Rogaine events attracting an average of 123 participants (last year 68!) with the most being 190 (last years biggest was 101) at the Tinakori to Zealandia event. One more to go at Mt Kaukau on 20 November, as well as the Big Trig on 1 Dec. Last years Big Trig had 62 participants. Kelvin Theile has again coordinated the After Work rogaine series this year and my thanks go to him for his efforts. Kelvin has agreed to coordinate the series again next year. Rogaines are attracting the biggest participation numbers of the events that we run, other than the College Sport Wellington series, and we have had to upgrade our registration system to speed things up and make it easier for organisers. This year we introduced a 90 minute category which also has proved popular – this has taken over from the PMax 1 hour series which was run through winter in the past

MTBO – We have been hampered this year by the lack of an MTBO coordinator. Despite this, Michael has kept the program running, organising 4 events, three of which he planned himself with the other one being planned by John Robertson. Average attendance was 45 participants. Along with Nicole Ranger and Keiran Edwards Michael also organised another “Sprint Adventure Race” using a different part of the riverbank from last year, further North – bike to the first area, complete a sprint event on foot then bike to the next area and do it again. This event attracted 46 participants

Again this year we have coordinated with Wellington in regards to the schedule for the orienteering year. The programme ahead looks something like this:

* Three more O Maxs before the end of the year (one more by OHV)
* Evening sprint series, weekly from mid Feb, up to six envisaged.
* College Sport Sunday Series, every fortnight-ish from mid Feb to QB. Normally 5 or 6 events. More about that below
* Malcolm Ingham is again coordinating the OY series with 5 events from March to May. (OHV event at Waiterere on 3 May)
* Throughout the year, monthly afterwork rogaines roughly April – Nov’ with a Big Trig late Nov / early Dec

There are two Sprint Weekends happening early in the year – Lonely Mountain Sprints in Taranaki January 25 – 27 (4 events plus a relay) and Sprint The Bay the following weekend 31 Jan – 2 Feb (6 events). Nationals are being run at Easter in the Manawatu by WOC and Queens Birthday weekend events are being run by Auckland.

Ellie Molloy from WOC has developed some ideas regarding the CSW series and a number of our members have contributed to the discussion. She is trying to get school students to participate in more events as most do the CSW series and then we don’t see them again. Some of the ideas included extending the series to 8 events with a final in the forest, or running a CSW sprint series in conjunction with our summer sprint series. It will be interesting to see what she comes up with

There have again been some great performances by club members at National and International events, too numerous for me to list them all but a number worthy of mention

* Tim and Laura Robertson have both been competing internationally with Tim in the NZ team at the World Champs. Tims team came second at the Swedish night relays and he also competed at the World MTBO champs. Laura gained a 5th and an 8th at the British Sprint / Middle Champs
* Jill Dalton was 1st in her grade at the Auckland Champs Middle
* Bill Edwards was 1st in the Aust Long Distance Champs, and had a 2nd and a 4th at the British Sprint / middle champs
* Ted van Geldermalsen 1st in Aust Long Distance Champs
* Michael Wood – 1st in his grade at the Aust MTBO Champs
* Rachel Drew 3rd W40 World MTBO Masters Champs in Germany
* North Island Secondary Schools Champs – 3rd in their grades were Jack Maddigan, Olivia Healey and Nicholas Green, with top 6 finishes by Rebecca Connelly and Nicole Maddigan
* CSW Grade winners from OHV or Hutt Valley Schools include Sarah and Jessica Przychodzko, Keiran and Larissa Edwards, Catherine and Rebecca Connelly, Jack Maddigan, Nina Simmons, Jake and Morag McLellan, Nicholas Green and Zac Langridge. Good results also from Sophie Waters, Nicole Maddigan and Oliver Edwards

The club purchased new heads for our control stands. These have now been fitted and are in use. We have bought another tent, a bit smaller than our other one which needs 4 people to put it up. The new one can be put up by one person. We also purchased another tablet so we don’t have to borrow WOC’s tablets for our big events.

Bill Trompetter and Michael Wood have run a series of 15 training sessions with kids from HVHS. These have been very successful and I thank them for their efforts. Some of these kids are showing a lot of promise and It would be great if we could extend this to other schools.. Andrew Riddle continues to bring a group of Newlands kids to events. We would like to spend some money on Junior development but aren’t sure of the best way to go about it. I will ask the question in general business at the AGM to see if members have any ideas.

Thanks to all who helped to organise events throughout the year. We will be again recognising planners and controllers, as well as significant contributors to the club with the offer of 50% off their subscription for 2020, or a free entry to an OHV event. I encourage all members to think about helping to plan an event this year. The purpose of the club is to plan events for our members and the more planners we have the more events we are able to run.

Lastly I would like to thank our committee for their input throughout the year. We have run the club with only 4 committee members and it does mean we are spread very thin. This restricts the amount that the club is able to do. I encourage all members who participate regularly in our events to consider joining the committee as the more of us there are the easier it is to run our events and the task does not fall on the same people all of the time.

There are plenty of events coming up, so enjoy your orienteering for the next year.

Simon Rea

Club President