



Christmas Classic and Wayne Cretney Memorial



Race Report: Sunny Masterton

Maps: Masterton Parks, Waipoua Riverside

Weather: Fine

Organiser and Planner: Bryan Teahan

The number of entries was a little bit disappointing but putting on the event to me is really only tertiary to why I do this – in memory of Wayne and having an excuse to do what I love and that is to make maps with the added benefit of keeping me active. Thanks to the die-hards who keep on coming along.

For much of the year due to Covid, I could not do any mapping, and there was no orienteering anywhere. With the WOC club fully committed with the nationals and the regional champs, a Wellington location and date could not be found, so I decided to go back to the event's roots and the Wairarapa club were happy to host the event. I was happy to visit my birthplace – I am sure you will agree that the area is lovely to orienteer on with some interesting route choices.

It was cool for a while to have a toddler right next to my leg at the finish line – she decided she liked playing on the grass beside me with her parents looking on a few metres away.

An urban park changes frequently but when I was checking the control locations a week before the event, I found a few more changes than normal:

- I had mapped it two weeks beforehand, but the large wetland viewing platform disappeared as it was burnt to the ground by vandals.
- Several areas were cleared, and I had to change one control location where a nice hilltop was completely bulldozed.
- Checking out the pines where there was a nice patch of open run – I had to remap quickly as the pines were being thinned and chopped down.

I had a surprise on the day when I found out that the athletic track was double booked – thankfully we were able to work around each other – just a little bit more difficult with so many spectators and dodging the runners near the finish – but I believe orienteers are adaptable and can cope with anything. The finish point was near to the finish line where I remember finishing many running races when I was a youngster. I remember one time beating my brother-in-law Kerry for one of the first times and my time for 800m was about 1m 58 sec – the track was grass back then while now the surface is synthetic. It was nice to watch the runners while waiting for finishers and reminisce on good days gone by.

It was great to also have a family get-together during the weekend at Castlepoint – a great chance to talk a lot along with a memory of a force-ten gale and struggling to walk up to the lighthouse.

Results

<http://www.winterclassic.co.nz/wc/results2020.htm>

Route Choices

Did you choose the right Route Choice?

Here are some of the intended route choices.



A: 981m

B: 963m

C: 949m

D: 979m

Planner's Pick: C



A: 771m

B: 873m

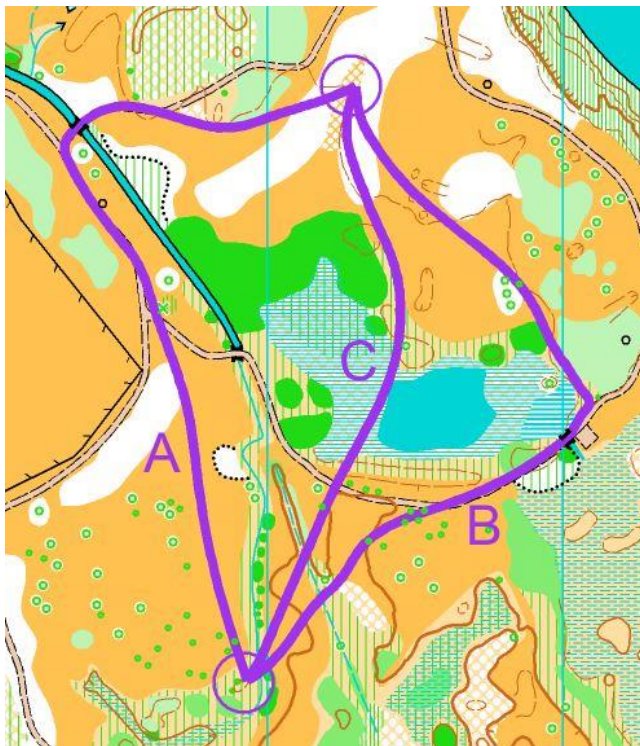
Planner's Pick: A



A: 794m

B: 841m

Planner's Pick: A



A: 361m

B: 347m

C: 259m

Planner's Pick: A

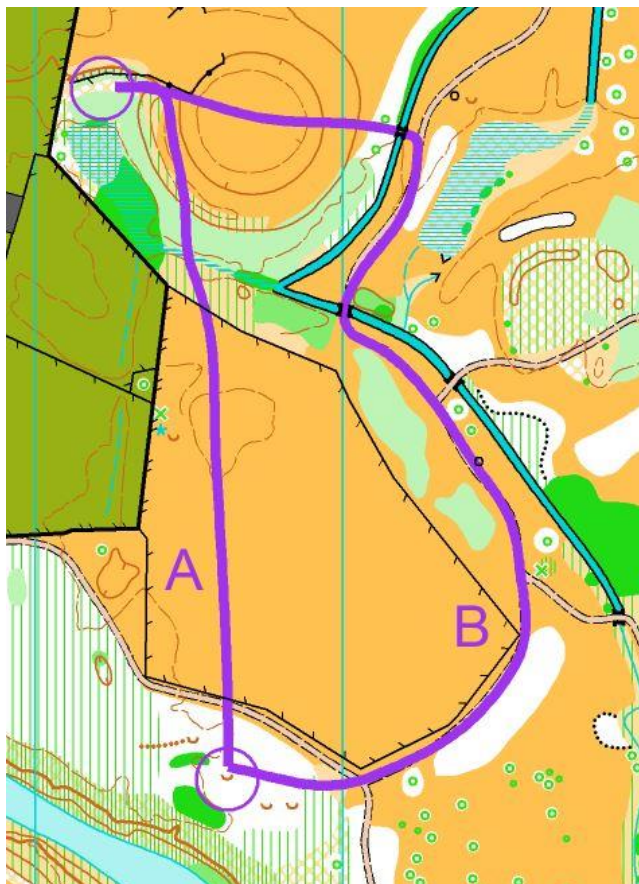


A: 231m

B: 157m

C: 250m

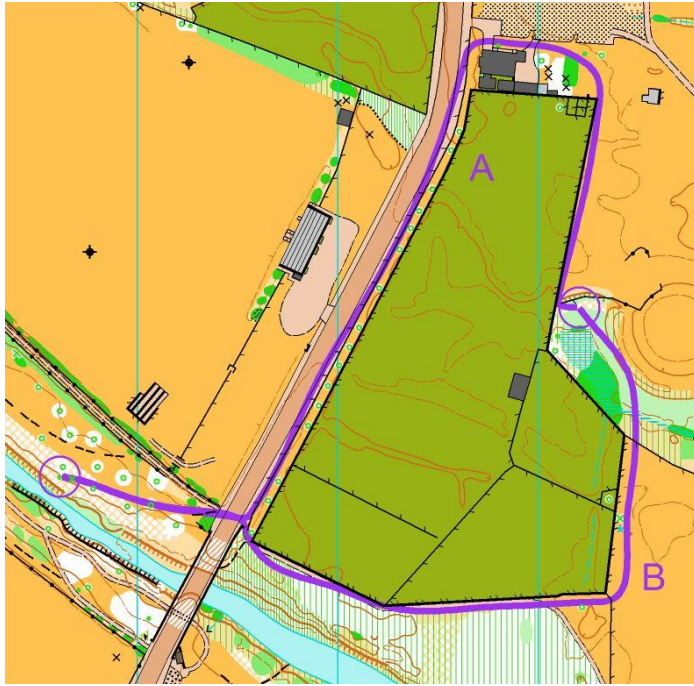
Planner's Pick: A



A: 284m

B: 489m

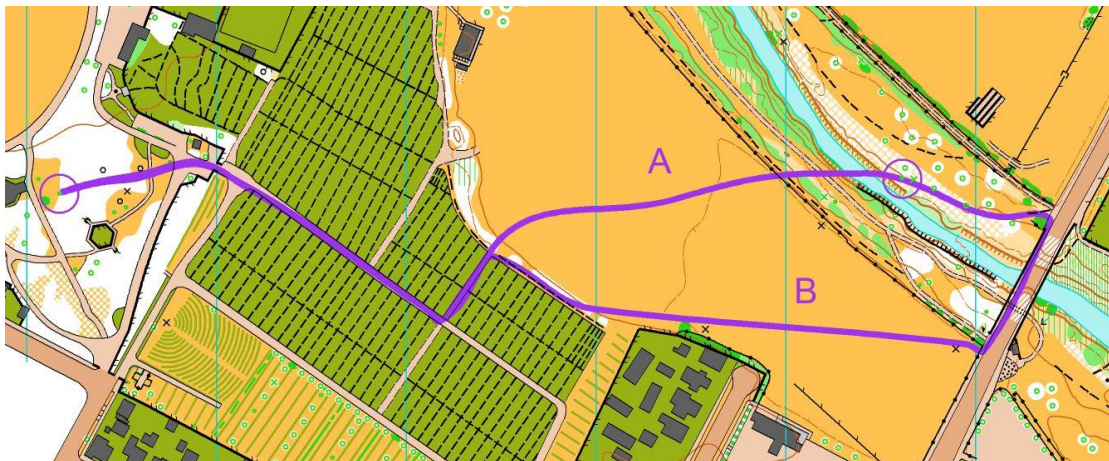
Planner's Pick: B



A: 660m

B: 540m

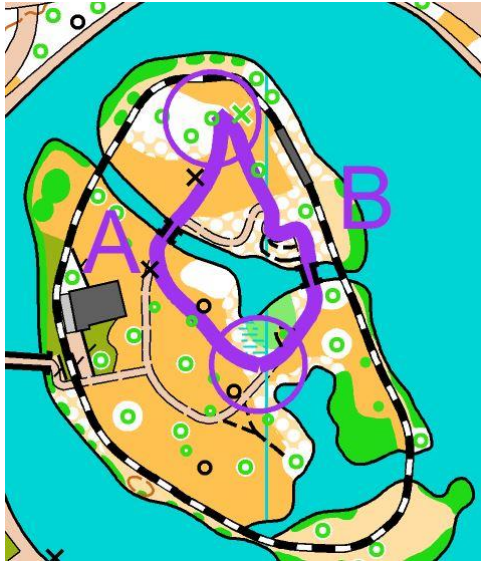
Planner's Pick: A



A: 597m

B: 843m

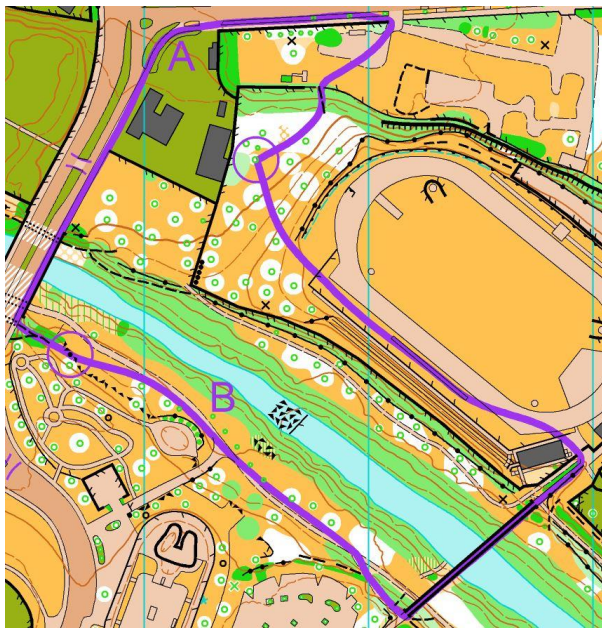
Planner's Pick: A (if you enjoy a wade)



A: 82m

B: 83m

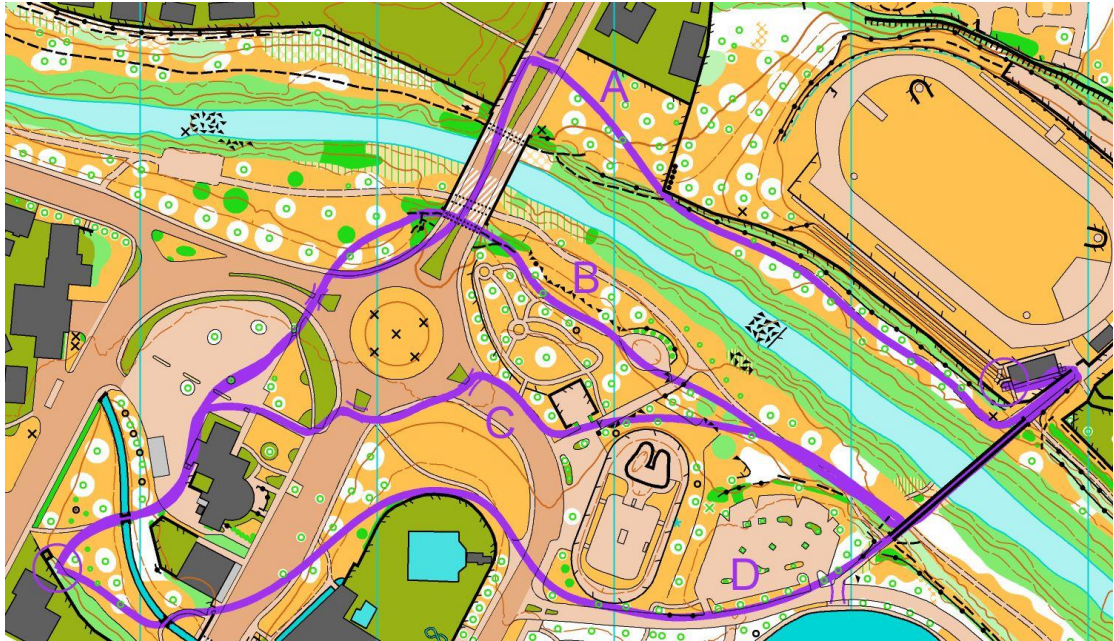
Planner's Pick: Nothing in it.



A: 439m

B: 602m

Planner's Pick: A – who got fooled by the uncrossable fences?



A: 772m
 B: 714m
 C: 659m
 D: 649m
 Planner's Pick: D



A: 257m
 B: 268m
 Planner's Pick: A

Further Information:

Angel in Robinson Park: <https://times-age.co.nz/surprise-angel-brings-peace/>

Robinson Park is formed in what was once the bed of the southern arm of the Waipoua River, which formed the original boundary between the borough and the county. The area between the two arms was regularly flooded, the floods sometimes entering the town, so a major diversion of the river into one straitened flow was undertaken in the late 1930s. The land on the old river bed was granted to Masterton Borough Council, and further land added from purchases from the Daniell family, and a gift from the Wrigley family. The land was originally called the North End Reserve, but was formally named in honour of Laurie Robinson in May 1974. Robinson, a nationally prominent nurseryman and plant breeder, had served as a seconded member of the Parks and Reserves Committee of the Masterton Borough Council for many years, as well as being heavily involved in the Masterton Beautifying Society.

Sport's Bowl – named in memorial for Colin Pugh – who was the manager of Masterton's parks and reserves for 26 years.

<https://demo.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/ARCENQ?RNI=254403>

During one summer, my brother Bill and I were employed by Colin. I vividly remember that during a drought that young trees near Mawley Park on the riverbank were dying so we spent several days all day watering the plants with a small hose – the easiest job in the world – with a little bit of exercise and in the open fresh air.

Henley Lake

<https://wairarapanz.com/see-and-do/free-and-nearly-free/henley-lake>

<https://library.mstn.govt.nz/wairarapa-stories/our-places/henley-lake/>

<https://www.wellingtonregionaltrails.com/trails/masterton-recreation-trails/henley-lake-and-wetlands/>

<https://www.wheelers.co.nz/books/9780473371630-henley-lake-from-wasteland-to-wetland/>

My brother Bernard (who was CEO of Masterton Licensing Trust) was a major supporter for Henley Lake.

Masterton Parks

<https://mstn.govt.nz/community-4/community/>

Queen Elizabeth Park

<https://wairarapanz.com/see-and-do/queen-elizabeth-park>

<https://wairarapanz.com/see-and-do/miniature-train-masterton>

<http://www.cityofmasterton.co.nz/blog/queen-elizabeth-park.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Elizabeth_Park,_Masterton

Masterton Old Cemetery

<https://library.mstn.govt.nz/archive/cemeteries/>

The site of Masterton's cemetery was chosen almost accidentally when a bundle of clothes was found on the banks of the Waipoua River. A party of men went looking for the body while Richard Iorns dug a grave in an empty paddock near the river. It turned out there was no body, just a pile of clothes, but Iorns caught a chill while digging in the stony soil. It turned to pneumonia and he died. He was buried in the grave he dug.

McJorow Park

<https://trusthouse.co.nz/2017/08/01/mcjourrow-park-bringing-community-together/>

Waipoua River Trail

<https://www.wellingtonregionaltrails.com/trails/masterton-recreation-trails/waipoua-river-trail/>

Masterton Trails

https://wairarapanz.com/sites/default/files/image_library/PDF/Recreational%20Trails%20Brochure-min.pdf