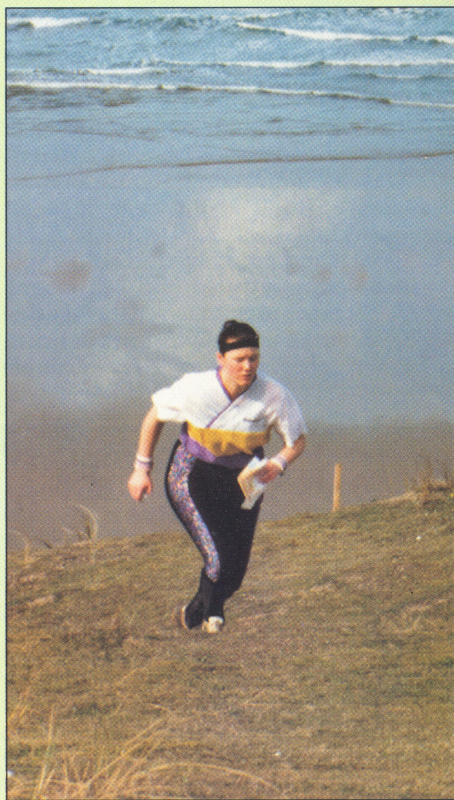


Sun, Sea & Sand Make It A JK To Remember

A WEEK of sunny weather, wonderful coastal views of the Atlantic Ocean, and some fine orienteering over the intricate contours of Perran Sands combined to make JK'97 an event difficult to forget.

Perran Sands holiday village made a splendid JK centre with over half the 3,500 orienteers staying on site. Residents lived in comfortable walking distance of the individual starts and finish, with eating, meeting and entertainment facilities all part of the package. For once there wasn't a frantic round of driving between venues, prizegiving and the agm. It was all at the same place. And when the main events were over, many hundreds of orienteers stayed down in Cornwall for some holiday days and some more relaxed orienteering - Cornwall OC's Gold Rush which offered extra events on Perran Sands, at Hayle and at Ladock Woods.

In the main races Yvette Hague won her 6th JK Women's Trophy though not without challenge from Sheffield University's Jo Smith - see profile overleaf. And in the men's race a world-championships strength posse of British men - Steven Hale, Jamie Stevenson, Stephen Palmer and Jon Musgrave, battle it out at the top, only to find themselves all pipped



Hazelle Jackson



Jonathan Taylor

Above: The finish area of the individual races

Left: A steep haul up from the beach

Right: Main Street, Haven Holiday Village, Perran Sands



Hazelle Jackson

by the powerful and accurate running of Finnish 'unknown' 22 year-old Mikko Knutti. The new junior elite races were also well contested - Abi Weeds showing that she is top of the heap in W20 and Siggie Gould showing strongly but going down by a few seconds each day to Sweden's Per Oberg.

The relays at Lanhydrock were a sprint of a different kind. In the women's race as so often it was between Sheffield University and South Yorkshire Orienteers. This time 'Town' (Jenny James, Wendy Smallwood and Kirtsy Bryan-Jones) beat 'Gown' (Claire Williams, Jo Smith and Joanne Stevenson) by just five seconds as

the students fought back from a minute and a half deficit. The men's race threatened to be similarly close but Steven Palmer ran the fastest leg of the day to give Warrior OC (Roger Goddard, Jeremy Edwards, Justin Howell and Palmer) a comfortable win over a nominally Swedish team from OK Tyr (a resurgent Colin McIntyre, Erik Forsgren, Jon Musgrave and Steven Hale) that as can be seen contained three Brits!

Could the JK be here every year, suggested at least one prominent orienteer? Yes, if it was a question of the facilities but six times round Perran Sands for the M21E's and by the end of Day 2 it was

becoming *a bit* familiar. Lesser mortals found it a little easier too after the Wednesday colour-coded and night events. And I'm not too sure if Erik Peckett and his hard-working team of many scores of South West OA members would be utterly overjoyed to have to do it every year!

So let's just thank them for the memories of 1997 and look forward to JK'98 in North Wales, where Dolgellau is the event town, all forests are within 5km of the event centre and the Welsh OA under the experienced leadership of Judith Powell is already well-advanced with the arrangements. See you there?