



We have had a busy time with Instructor Training courses over the last twelve months. Training courses were held in Kerry, Galway, Dublin and Kildare with almost fifty people going through training. The next course is scheduled for next weekend (6th&7th of May) in Rockbrook School Dublin, places still available for this course. Anyone interested should talk to me or book on via the link on the IOA website.

Last year I identified that the shortage of tutors was holding us back in the roll out of the instructor award. I am pleased to report that the IOA had two participants on the Adventure Sport Tutor course run by Sport Ireland Coaching (formally Coaching Ireland) last October and November. This is an important step forward and will enable us to offer a more comprehensive calendar of training going forward.

One of my commitments when I took on this role was to develop a training course aimed at teachers. Last May we applied for money from the Dormant Accounts Fund – with the support of Paul, Aine and the rest of the committee we submitted a proposal to map and provide teacher training for DEIS(disadvantaged) schools. All funding from Dormant Accounts must be targeted at groups or areas that are socially or economically disadvantaged.

We were informed in late October that our application had been approved and we were to receive a grant of €45,000 for the project. In March we announced the **Ready To Go Orienteering Project** with the launch of our website ready.orienteering.ie and a flyer. In a very short space of time and without a much publicity upwards of fifty DEIS schools have applied to be part of the project; this would indicate that there is a significant demand for orienteering education and training for teachers.

A pilot course was run in Clonturk Community College in Whitehall in Dublin on the 7th of April. Fifteen PE teachers from schools in the greater Dublin area attended, all participants received a starter box of orienteering equipment (mini-kites, punches and control cards) as well as teaching resources and games cards. Feedback from the course was very positive and we are now arranging to map thirteen schools for teachers who attended this course. A second course is scheduled for Arklow on the 10th of May and between now and July courses are planned for Wexford, Carlow, Mayo and Clondalkan.

It is still early days for the **Ready To Go Orienteering Project** and there is lot of work sill to be done with mapping and teacher training. I am confident that the project will be a success; when the Dormant Account funding is finished the IOA will have an established training course for teachers, a number experienced tutors to deliver courses and will have greatly increase participation in schools.

I'd like to acknowledge the support from Paul and the other members of the committee for supporting the proposal, the British Orienteering Federation for sharing their teaching material. A special word of thanks goes to Aine Joyce who is working alongside me as the project coordinator.