

IOA Mapping Officer's report to the 2006 IOA AGM Carlingford, April 30th 2006

*Irish Orienteers owe a huge debt of gratitude to those unsung heroes who have put time and energy into producing new and updated maps.
Without them our sport dies.*

2005/2006 has been a healthy year for Irish Orienteering mapping, including a successful mapping course and four new championship areas (Inishbofin, Castlough Demesne, Clonmore North Extension and Bull Island). Of note is the use of the 1:5,000 scale twice in 2006 for championship events.

2005 Mapping Grant Allocations

(Budget: €6,000) (7 Clubs Applied)

Printers	€240	4%
Photogrammetry	€3,550	59%
Printing	€1,085	18%
Campus/School	€1,125	19%

Of the €6,000 allocated, €5,475 has been claimed to date.

2006 Mapping Grant Scheme

As agreed at the March IOA Executive committee meeting, the budget for the 2006 IOA mapping grant scheme is €8,000. The scheme was announced to the clubs by email with a deadline for applications of May 31st, 2006.

The grant scheme asks for applications under the following headings:

- Diapositives
- Photogrammetry
- Trail-O, 3rd level campus and school map production
- Commercial map printing for championship events
- OCAD 9 software licenses and upgrades

Funds will be allocated depending on the applications received. It is probable that a portion of the budget will be used to pay for bulk OSI diapositives before the service is discontinued (see below). Maps for championship events that are properly registered with the IOA fixtures secretary before the grant application qualify for a higher grant.

In recognition of the stringent and costly map printing requirements that have been placed on the 2006 Irish Championships as a World Ranking Event, a special €500 map printing grant has been allocated to 3ROC/GEN.

2005 Mapping Course

A 2-day mapping course was held in Belvedere estate in County Westmeath in November 2005. There were 26 students from 11 clubs, representing all three IOA regions and the NIOA. The cost per student was €150 which was divided evenly between the students and the IOA. The course was very well received - a full report has been published in orienteering.ie/mapping. I am extremely grateful to the following six instructors who willingly gave their time to share their experience with the students; without them the course would not have happened: Sean Cotter, BOC; Pat Healy, CNOC; Martin Flynn, Ajax; Pdraig Higgins, WEGO; Val Jones, Fingal; John O'Callaghan, BOC. The new map of the estate is due to be used by WEGO for the Irish Sprint-O championships in September 2006.

www.orienteering.ie

The mapping section of [orienteering.ie](http://www.orienteering.ie) has been continuously updated during the past year. All suggestions for improvement are welcome, no matter how small. The site currently contains information about: the 2005 IOA Mapping Course; Resources; Map Printing; Map registration; IOA Map survey; OSI permits; Grant schemes; IOA reports.

IOA Map Survey

The IOA map survey, based on original work by Gerry Brady in the 1990s, has been updated. Please notify the Mapping Officer of any errors. This survey is the closest that the IOA has to a map register (note: since taking on the job of IOA mapping officer in 2003 I have been unable to locate any official IOA map register).

OCAD 9

A number of clubs have upgraded their mapping projects to the newly released OCAD version 9.

Diapositives

Pat Healy, who works closely with the Ordnance Survey, tells me that from September 2006 diapositives (Air Photo positive prints on film which are used in photogrammetry for the production of Orienteering base maps) will no longer be produced by the OSI. This change is due to the OSI's policy of switching to digital imaging.

Digital prints do not have the same contrast for the classification of detail as old style prints developed in a dark room using Agfa or Kodak chemicals. Accordingly the 2006 grant scheme will aid the purchase of diapositive pairs of contour-intensive areas. As each pair costs approximately €600, we will be limited in what we can purchase and requests will be prioritised according to the quality of the area. It is my intention to submit a bulk purchase order to the OSI before the end of June.

Defence Forces Map Sharing

Commandant Pat Farrelly has suggested a map sharing scheme between Orienteering clubs and the Defence Forces, an arrange that would be mutually beneficial to both. Further details will be announced on the eGroup soon.

LeeO

LeeO recently announced that they are disbanding and joining BVOC. The LeeO secretary Claire Nuttall has written to me and asked that the LeeO areas be distributed as follows:

AREA			TO CLUB
Castlefrecke W33.35	Clonakilty	Cork	CorkO
Mallabracka W22.55	Dunmanaway	Cork	CorkO
Derryleigh			BVOC
Aherloe		Tipperary	Vacant
Drumleagh		Tipperary	Vacant
Combaun			BVOC
Scartnamuck W474 593			CorkO
Tracton W72.56			CorkO
Watergrasshill/Moanbaun W332 357			CorkO
Glendav W24.81			Vacant
Rostellan			RTCO/BOC

Map Registrations (since last AGM)

Renmore Barracks Pitch and Putt Course	WEGO
Renmore Barracks, Renmore, Galway	WEGO
Renmore Barracks and Ballloughaun	WEGO
Gorteen Bay, Roundstone, Co Galway	WEGO
Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin	WEGO
Camden Fort {Dun ui Mheicir}, Crossshaven	WEGO
Carlisle Fort {Dun an Dhaibhisigh} Cork Harbour	WEGO
Oranmore Military Ranges, Galway	WEGO
Moneystown Hill, Moneystown, Wicklow	WEGO
Belvedere House, Mullingar, Westmeath	WEGO
Castletown House, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	Fingal
Maynooth NUI campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	Fingal
Curraghchase Forest Park, Co Limerick	BOC
Castlelough Woods, Lough Derg, Co Tipperary	BOC

Next Year

I recommend that the following areas be addressed by the incoming IOA mapping officer:

1. We need to centralise and publish all available information about best practice in map printing so that clubs can benefit from each other's experiences.
2. We need to build on the success of the mapping course, probably with a one-day computer & GPS oriented workshop.
3. Bulk purchase diapositives before the service is discontinued by the IOA.

Marcus Geoghegan, IOA Mapping Officer

Email: mapping@orienteering.ie