Report to AGM of the IOA, 2017

This report is divided into 4 sections: Schools; Uniformed groups; Sports partnerships/new maps; Permanent Orienteering Courses

- **Schools orienteering**
    - Structured the same as previous years with regional training events in Dublin, Cork and the Southeast before Christmas 2016. The number of new primary schools appears to be increasing. After Christmas, the focus was on leagues and regional championships. In April and May, the attention switched to the Irish school championships. This year the venues are/were Castlecomer Discovery Park for the Secondary and Carriganore, WIT sports campus for the Primary schools.
    - The events would not take place without the tremendous efforts of Mary Healy and her team in Dublin; Liam O'Brien and his CSOA/CorkO helpers; and Wato members in the southeast. I am glad to report that volunteering is alive and well in the world of orienteering.
    - Ted Lucey has taken on the mantle of development of schools orienteering in North Cork/Limerick. He was the first person to be Garda Vetted under the new scheme. In September, Ted ran an introductory event for Active Age Week. Then in October and November, he ran an Adventure challenge Programme over a 6 week period with TYs in Rathkeale, through Limerick Sports Partnership. In this, he introduced them to orienteering, map making, and guided them in running an event for eighty 1st years on their last day. He made 2 new maps for this programme. Ted has been using an IOA training set on loan which has aided him in handling large numbers in a short period of time. Ted hosted both primary schools and secondary schools training events at Newcastle west. He is due to run primary school introductory events in Scartaglin, Co. Kerry and Rathkeale, Co.Limerick in June.

- **Uniformed groups**
    - The DO was asked to run 2 regional scout events. These were for the Kilkenny/Carlow and the Wexford/Waterford regions. The most important thing to understand about scout events is the range of age and ability that takes part. Scout leaders want the young people to go on a hike in groups using their compasses rather than completing an orienteering course. It is important to insist that they take the course that is appropriate.
    - Courses have to be designed for the following age groups: Beavers (yellow); Scouts A (12/13 age, Orange); Scouts B (14/15 age group, Red); Venture (16+, Long red)
    - Entries and entry fees have to be co-ordinated and collected by the leaders
    - No matter what other courses are on offer for regular orienteers, there must be designated scout leaders on registration and finish. They must take responsibility.
- **Sports Partnerships/new maps**
    - **Carlow Sports Partnership**: Pat Healy and the DO have been working with Louise Barry from CSP to assess the potential for orienteering in the county. Pat has mapped Duckett's Grove which will be used in May for an introductory event for local primary schools. The DO has assessed several other potential sites including Cloghrenane which will be used for a local Wato event in May and Rathwood (near Tullow but over the border in Wicklow just) where both of them met the owner. He has agreed that we can use the area in September when they have finished clearing rides for trail runs. It has excellent parking, toilets and a café. It has good potential for hosting large numbers of school children for an event.

- **Waterford sports partnership**
  - Pat Healy mapped the town of Dungarvan for a Wato club urban event. The DO organised a training introductory session for 20 primary schools at the request of Waterford teachers centre. He used 2 sections of the new map, at the Sports centre and adjacent to the tennis courts for 2 practical sessions using punching and sport ident equipment, followed up with a short power presentation on aspects of orienteering including risk assessment. The advantage was that the teachers centre completed all the administration.
  - Waterford city, to establish a Permanent Orienteering course at Kilbarry Amenity park (Maps and courses ready, just awaiting plaques). The DO is working with Brian O'Neill who is in contact with Eoin Browne as he is responsible for Deis schools in Waterford.
  - The DO received an email from Pete Jones requesting
    - assistance for a teacher at Colaiste Chathail Naofa which is Deis school which will be passed on to Eoin Browne. However, their school is already part of the Wato map of the town and they appear to be happy to use the town map
    - to deliver orienteering to 12-17 year olds for National Recreational week which he can source funding for delivering physical activity in a fun way for. Any suggestions?
    - WSP have a new employee focusing on the new Greenway. They are suggesting incorporating orienteering for different target groups. Wato club have already approached Josh O'Sullivan Hourihan to map the village of Kilmacthomas which includes the Greenway and a small area of woodland used for mud/trail runs.
- **Limerick Sports Partnership:** Ted Lucey has been working with LSP as indicated above and has mapped 4 new areas and updated 3 others.

- **Permanent Orienteering Courses**:
  I propose the following steps and look for support and suggestions of all the orienteering community.

  - *To review all the current listed POC's*
  - *To develop a register*
  - *To get clubs to associate with each POC*
  - *To maintain courses*
  - *To refresh existing courses*
  - *To identify potential new locations*

  Footnote on POC's: I have reviewed the POC's at Castlecomer, Kilkenny Castle and Kennedy park and am currently refreshing the courses in each location. I have identified Tintern Abbey, Co. Wexford as a location with an old POC used by Shielbaggan OEC. It needs to be re mapped and courses refreshed. There will be an official launches at Kilbarry Amenity Park, Waterford City and Ducketts Grove, Co. Carlow in May.

I would like to apologise in advance to anybody who I have omitted from the above report and welcome all positive comment and suggestions.

Andrew Cox
(Development officer)
20/04/17