13th April 2017

IOA Mapping Officer Report

Summary

The following report summarises developments since the last AGM.

Map Registrations

Only 12 proposed maps have been registered since the last AGM, all of which are small local areas. This includes one map of the National Sports Campus in Blanchardstown which was commissioned directly by the IOA.

I receive many requests from schools and scout groups asking if maps are available in their area. Where possible I direct them to the relevant club but in most cases the answer is no. This deprives many an opportunity to explore our outdoor and/or urban areas and perhaps be enticed into the sport proper.

Similar thoughts have been voiced by the Junior and Senior Squads where there are very few high quality, and not necessarily large, maps available to train on.

It is worth comparing the Finnish MapAnt project (http://www.mapant.fi/) with our own version: http://www.orienteering.ie/map-making-for-irish-orienteers. While we could never compete, the contrast is stark.

Therefore I would like to encourage clubs to do whatever it takes to increase our stock of maps. Please contact me with any suggestions and requirements you may have and the IOA will facilitate you as best we can.

Mapping Grants

A small amount of grant money remains. Over the next month, the IOA will announce a new scheme whereby clubs can claim a small subsidy to 'update' an existing map. I would recommend all clubs to avail of this scheme once available. The amount of subsidy will be decided once the level of interest has been established.

Map Register

A significant analysis of maps in the Map Register was undertaken and a number of gaps were identified. Clubs will soon be asked to confirm if their details are correct and the online Register of Completed Maps will be updated. From reviewing the fixtures lists, It is also likely that a significant number of maps are not registered and this is something that should be corrected.

Future Developments

As mentioned last year, I would be very keen for a regular dialogue with clubs on how best to solve this mapping crisis and promote future development. Should money be spent on mapping courses? Should foreign mappers be commissioned for specific projects? Can clubs commercialise maps (through ViewRanger perhaps)? Each club will have a different perspective and it is something every club should be involved in. If anyone wishes to contribute please contact me at mapping@orienteering.ie.

Acknowledgements

Finally I would like to thank my fellow committee members and especially Aine for their assistance throughout the year. It is amazing how much hard work goes in behind the scenes. This is particularly true of Harold and his presence on the committee will be sorely missed. The efforts of Pat Healy, Padraig Higgins, Laurence Quinn, Frank Ryan and all other regular mappers is also greatly appreciated.

Stuart Scott