

# MINUTES OF IOA MEETING, MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014

## **Attendees:**

**Sarah Ní Ruairc (Treasurer),  
Mary O'Connell (Chairperson),  
Harold White (Technical Standards),  
Fergal Buckley (Fixtures Secretary),  
Finn van Gelderen (Communications Officer),  
Mike Long (Junior Representative),  
Andrew Cox (Development Officer),  
Ed Niland (Orienteering Education).**

**Minute Secretary: Aine Joyce**

## **Apologies:**

**Darren Burke (High Performance),  
Chris Slattery (Mapping Registrar),**

## **Agenda**

1. Minutes of last meeting,
2. Matters arising from previous minutes (brief)
3. Officer Updates
4. AOB

The Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013 meeting were circulated by email. They were approved by the meeting.

## **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising

## **Juniors Report**

Work is completed on the qualification criteria for JWOC. There are two training sessions organised, one in Killarney in Feb and another in the Phoenix park in March. A summer training camp will take place which will have about 30 people.

<Finn joined>

<Harold joined>

<Ed joined>

There are a number of concerns at the moment:

- In the near future there will be insufficient numbers to fill the some of the classes for the JHI.
- The difficulty of getting all juniors together on a national basis. One solution is to have more regional based training, more regularly.
- Increasing the numbers of Juniors from Schools Orienteering into the Junior Squad.

### **Fixtures Secretary Report**

The possibility of an online event registration system was discussed.

### **Chairperson's Report**

There is an ongoing discussion between Coillte and the IOA about licencing orienteering clubs to use Coillte properties. A Centralised system will be put in place, where Coillte will be given a list of events that require licences twice a year.

All suggestions should be emailed to Aine

The cost of using this national licence for each event will be built into the event registration form, increase general fixtures cost, spread cost across fixtures. The exact cost per event is under discussion. The need to subsidise smaller events was discussed.

<Sarah joined>

### **Development officer Report**

See forum submission in appendix.

Andrew requested that the challenge of converting Schools Orienteers to Club Orienteers be placed on the agenda for the Face to Face meeting.

### **Coaching Report**

Tutor training took place at the weekend. Lindie and Eoin will run courses in Dublin for trainee teachers and orienteers.

First assessment of instructors is planned for May 2014

The admin requirements of Coaching will be discussed in the near future with Mary and Aine.

### **Report of the Controller of Technical Standards.**

The combined rule book is complete with the exception of a few minor corrections. The new Competition Registration rules were approved via email. A notice for the forum has been sent to Fergal.

The provision of a Map Registration number was discussed with Chris, it will be available shortly. Maps which are properly registered and with which are no disputes will be given a Map Registration Number.

A new Munster Council is proposed.

### **Communication Officer Report**

The 10 Elements film is completed. A logo for IOC2014 is currently being designed. A photographer is engaged for IOC2014. A brochure for the sprint series is also completed.

The website has being refreshed and mapping and education are the sections we are going to concentrate on next.

### **Treasurers Report**

The ISC Grant has been received. The treasurer asked that any outstanding 2013 expenses are send in asap, to allow the 2013 accounts to be done.

### **AOB**

The Fixtures secretary confirmed that regarding lead-times for fixtures, league events are the most important to have up on time.

The Junior Officer suggested combining Junior training with park events. Also the need for a person to take on the role of helping integrate schools/junior orienteering.

Mary and Aine will attend a meeting with the ISC to talk generally about Orienteering.

## Development report, posted to the Forum Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 2014

The role of the Development Officer is an ever expanding one. It is however one that is best served on a regional basis because of time constraints and the need to build up local networks of contacts. It may be time for the IOA to consider expanding the team.

The development of schools orienteering shows no sign of slowing up with 3 particularly active areas: Cork schools, Leinster schools and SE schools. In addition there are a number of other one off events that focus on schools. In the Primary school sector, there is almost a full time job to meet the needs and interest amongst teachers of 5th and 6th class. It suits teachers to bring an entire class and makes organisation easier as there are seldom any changes of entries on the day so pre entry is easy. Cost of transport reduces the frequency of events attended. It is important to train new schools before they attend any events. This requires additional time either by going into the school or putting on a special session in a local park but is well worth the investment. Near is best. Primary schools will travel regularly but not over great distances which reduces the competitiveness of the Irish schools events in comparison to the provincial ones.

For Secondary schools, Croke Park and Haddington road have many implications which may only be felt within the next couple of years as teachers struggle to complete the requisite in-school hours at the expense of outdoor activity. Some schools have remained loyal due to the enthusiasm of individual teachers and pupils who themselves orienteer regularly at club level. The cost of renting a bus, diminishing budgets and the disruption to a mixture of classes do not always find favour amongst school administrators. Pre-entry is more difficult for Secondary schools so more flexibility is needed by the organisers.

The uniformed organisations are variable in their level of participation. A regional competition is the best way to bring out the numbers (400+ Wexford cubs and scouts at JFK at a recent event) but with that goes the problem of range of standard and the difficulty of planning courses to suit both physical and technical ability. Each scout leader has their own idea of what constitutes orienteering. The scouts think that teamwork is the norm, often in patrol size groups. The main focus tends to be more on using a compass and less on map reading. So, quite a deal of education is needed here.

Running basic instructors courses in the southeast has given scout leaders, teachers and youth workers a greater capacity to bring groups to events and for them to give the basic instructions to enable young people to participate without putting further strain on overworked event organisers.

The development of permanent orienteering courses has the potential to open up orienteering to a wider audience. I have been working with Pat Healy to set up courses at Castlecomer Discovery park (launched at an event on May) and Kilkenny Castle (with the co-operation of the OPW and launched on December 8th by the Mayor). Further courses will be established in the New Year at the Towers, Lismore, Co. Waterford at the request of Lismore Heritage; Kennedy park, Co. Wexford at the request of the OPW; and Kilbarry Amenity Park, Waterford City at the request of the Waterford Sports Partnership. I would like to recognise the work that has already been done in this area by Sean Cotter in the Cork region and by various clubs in association with Coillte mostly in the Leinster region. Clubs need to be more proactive in using these courses in their training events or as their wayfarers courses at local events. This will promote the concept and get wider usage.

The follow up has to be the basic training of instructors to give them competence to bring groups themselves to use the facility and get young people familiar with parklands and woodlands.

Providing competent instructors with the necessary support is the role of Ed Niland as Director of Education. Qualifying a large number of enthusiastic instructors at level 1 is a step in the right direction. The IOA need to look at more ways to tap into this enthusiasm and strengthen the team developing orienteering with uniformed groups and other youth organisations in particular. One possible direction that could be pursued in schools is the Gaisce/President's Award which has both Physical Activity and Community Involvement sections. The bronze level award which requires participants to set targets begins usually in Transition Year.

Adventure centres such as Kippure currently offer a half day orienteering package to help with map reading and navigation as part of the Venture section of Gaisce. But this is the crux of the matter, orienteering is seen primarily as team building and navigation.

How is orienteering portrayed on the web? First our allies, the adventure/outdoor education centres: The Lilliput adventure centre on Lough Ennell clearly indicates on its website that it is IOA approved...do we have such a system in place? It's logo includes 2 orienteering kites. I could find only one other website that had an orienteering kite: the Schull and Fitbones. Visual evidence of orienteering is hard to come by. Links to our own National governing body website are rare. Cappanlea OEC run a successful module for Kerry schools and have an annual event. Their link to the KerryO fixtures for 2011 is out of date. The Carlingford adventure centre run the most comprehensive package for orienteers with both forest and open mountain on offer. The Outdoor Education Ireland main website has pictures of a wide range of activities but no orienteering. There were no pictures in the gallery either.

A quick dash thru some of the other possible pathways for people interested: FamilyFun.ie has links under orienteering as an activity to Farmleigh family fitness, Castlecomer and Avondale which both have Permanent Orienteering courses. There could be more. AskaboutIreland.ie: the description of orienteering under adventure sports is so out of date, still using master maps and punching. Pictures also dated, does not indicate a modern sport. Coillte Outdoors has full information on the Permanent Orienteering courses on their property.

I would be glad to hear your thoughts on any of the above.

Email to [development@orienteering.ie](mailto:development@orienteering.ie)

until the next Message,

Andrew Cox

IOA Development Officer

Wato PRO