

IOA mapping officer's report to the 2004 IOA AGM

Recent years have seen a substantial improvement in the quality of Irish Orienteering maps. This has stemmed directly from previous investments in professional photogrammetric plots, the work put in by our small dedicated core of high quality mappers, and the increasing use of professional cartography services. *Irish Orienteering owes a huge debt of gratitude to those who have put time and energy into producing new and updated maps, without which our sport dies.*

In order to fill a vacancy, I was recently co-opted onto the IOA executive committee in the role of mapping officer. My first task was to investigate the state of the map register. Having contacted some previous IOA mapping officers and a number of people involved in mapping, I was forced to conclude that the register does not exist in any reliable or usable form. For this reason, I am unable to give any account of the level of new and updated maps in the 2003/2004 season.

In November 2003 I contributed to the IOA's grant application to the Sports council, requesting as much funding as possible for mapping related projects. In February 2004 the IOA received its funding allocation and met to decide budgets; mapping received €4,000. I then wrote to all twenty-four IOA affiliated clubs soliciting grant applications under the following heading:

- ♦ Photogrammetry for championship-class areas
- ♦ OCAD software licenses & high quality colour printers
- ♦ Commercial map printing for championship events

Ten clubs replied. The range of projects was impressive and bodes well for the future of the sport.

Funding was allocated as follows:

Item	qty	€ each
OACD	4	€50
Printers	6	€125
Photo/Photogrammetry for scheduled Championship maps:	3	€450
Photo/Photogrammetry for proposed Championship areas:	4	€200
Championship Map Printing (2004 only)	6	€75
University campus maps	2	€100
* IOC 2004 Supplement	1	€250
		€4,000

* In recognition of the high costs of printing three championship maps for IOC2004, a special supplement of €250 was granted to BOC.

Depending on what was applied for, clubs received funding as follows. Note that these funds are only drawn down after presentation of commercial receipts.

3ROC	€50	DUO	€225
Ajax	€200	Fingal	€650
BOC	€1,450	GEN	€125
CNOC	€825	Setanta	€250
DCUO	€100	Western Eagles	€125

In addition to the above, I also assisted in the organisation of Go-Orienteering day 2003 and initiated a project to try re-invigorate the use of SportIdent within Irish Orienteering. The IOA is grateful to Noel Donagh for his work on SportIdent over the years and Nigel Campbell-Crawford has now taken over his role of SportIdent Czar. This effort is now bearing fruit with a number of successful SportIdent events having already taken place.

Looking to the future, I recommend that the following areas need to be addressed by the in-coming IOA mapping officer:

1. We need to move away from piecemeal once-off funding to structured multi-year funding for large photogrammetry projects.
2. The map register needs to be formalised and placed on-line for all to see.
3. We need to organise a centralised map-printing system; there are now a number of commercial organisations that offer viable commercial rates for bulk printing direct from OCAD.
4. We need to organise a mapping master-class that uses the skills of our high-quality mappers to train the next generation.

Marcus Geoghegan
IOA Mapping Officer