

Mapping Officer's report to the 2008 IOA AGM
Castletownbere, May 3rd 2008

*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.*

2007/2008 has been a steady year for the completion of Irish Orienteering maps – a number of new league and school maps have been produced and one new championship area has been introduced. At the 2007 AGM nobody stepped forward to take on the job of IOA mapping officer and the IOA Chairman agreed to continue in this role for another year. The clubs are strongly encouraged to find someone to take on this role as a matter of urgency.

2007 IOA Mapping Grant Allocations (see mapping.orienteering.ie for full details)

(Budget: €8,000) (9 Clubs Applied)

IOC 2009	€960
Photogrammetry/Basemap	€4,800
School/Campus	€1,200
Printing	€840
Printers	€100
OCAD	€100
Total claimed:	€8,000

2008 Mapping Grant Scheme: Budget is €8,000 – the 2008 grant scheme is left up to the incoming mapping officer.

mapping.orienteering.ie: The mapping section of [orienteering.ie](http://mapping.orienteering.ie) has been continuously updated during the past year. All suggestions for improvement are welcome, no matter how small.

Waterproof maps: Some research was done during the year on options for waterproof map printing and the results were published on Irish Orienteering eGroup. Some samples are still available.

Trinity College Map Archive: Brian Hollinshead of 3ROC is running a very successful project to collect a map set for inclusion in TCD's national map archive – we are very grateful to him for the time that he has put into this very valuable project, full details of which are published on the Irish Orienteering eGroup.

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. Since taking on the job of IOA mapping officer in 2003 I have been unable to locate any official IOA map register – it seems to have disappeared sometime during the 1990s.

Map Registrations (since last AGM)

Carrigshouk	Wicklow	Ajax
Ballydavid	Glen of Aherlow	CorkO
Coolacullig (Coachford) wood	Cork	BOC
Dromina Wood	Caterford	BOC
Castleblagh Wood	Ballyhooley	BOC
Kilworth Forest	Kilworth	BOC
Rahin Wood	Edenderry	DFO
Sliabh Ward	Ballisodare Co. Sligo	SligO
Hill of Tara	Meath	Fingal
Trim castle	Meath	Fingal
Dalgan park	Meath	Fingal
Balrath wood	Meath	Fingal
Littlewood	Meath	Fingal

Map Data: At last year's AGM I highlighted how often our “partial” maps omit vital information such as scale, north arrow, contour interval, map name, names of the survey team, OSI license information and usually they do not assert copyright. This is bad practice; competitors are not given vital information, the mappers are not given credit for their work and legal ownership is not clear. Clubs are encouraged to layout their maps such that an information box containing the map's data can be easily included in a partial map print.

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 run a technical OCAD and *computers in mapping* course to encourage best practice in using technology for map creation.

With a number of very notable exceptions the days of club-produced championship maps are dying – mapping is now a commercial activity. We need to find ways to pay appropriate rates for professional mapping services if we are to continue to compete on the high-quality maps that we have come to expect from our mappers.

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Page 1 of 1