

Minutes of IOA Tele-conference on 14th September 2009

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Present: Brendan O'Brien, Ruth Lynam, Mary O'Connell, Brian Power, Fergal Buckley, Finn van Gelderen, Andrew Cox, Harold White, Aine Joyce

The Chairman, Brendan O'Brien introduced the agenda items as follows;

1. Officers Reports

- Treasurer
- High Performance
- Junior Affairs
- Technical
- Development
- Mapping
- Education
- Fixtures
- Communications
- Chairperson

2. Communications 09/10 - FVG

- National Trails Day
- Brochure
- Video
- TV coverage

3. Any other business

- Map conflicts
- IOA image
- expanding our reach

Treasurers Report- Mary O'Connell

- 2008 accounts due back from the auditor early this week. There has been a delay due to auditor's ill-health.
- There have been 3 queries from the ISC following on from the mid-year review. These are:
 - Format is different to last year. This should be resolved on receipt of the audited accounts.
 - Administration grant was not totally spent. I'll respond on this point.
 - Not all of the grant for 'NCDP' and 'Other core activities' was spent. We will need to respond on this.
- Current cash position is healthy. Cash balance was €70.6k on 21st Aug. 2009 (statement date). However ISC grant is likely to be reduced in 2010.
- Signatories on the foreign payments system have been changed due to change in IOA Chairperson.
- Signatories on the current account due to be changed in the next few weeks. Delay due to holiday period.

Discussion: The Mapping Officer, the High Performance Officer and the Communications officer asked for clarification on their available budgets and the budgetary period. This information was given as follows by the treasurer;

Mapping: For the financial year from Jan 09 to Dec 09 there is €10,000 available for mapping plus €2,000 for Schools mapping.

High Performance: €5,000 for this financial year.

Communications: €5,000 for this financial year.

High Performance Officers Report - Ivan Millar

Squad structure – A list of current squad members including those who are current team members has been circulated. This list will be updated each year and be available for all to access on the website.

Competitions – Teams have been sent to World cup events in Finland and Norway and a strong team competed at the World championships in Hungary. Some excellent results were had including strong relay performances. There is a big focus on a strong team representing Ireland at next years WOC in Norway. We are aiming for at least one athlete making a WOC final race and building strong and consistent relay teams. It is hoped that Selection races will be held in Trondheim in spring next year.

Training – A number of squad members took part in the first official training camp for next years WOC. A number of training events are planned for the build up to next years WOC including Training based in Ireland and Norway.

Coaching – We have secured the services of a young Norwegian coach who is keen to help the elite squad members in the build up to next years WOC and beyond. He will work with the athletes on a 'one to one' basis as well as joining the team on training camps.

Publicity – As a squad we are using the elite blog for highlighting competition results, training and other interesting going ons within the squad. There seems to be increased communication between squad members mainly through the elite yahoo forum. A blog is being created to highlight the teams build up to the world champs in Trondheim. It is hoped this blog will be a good source of info for squad members and give them a focus for next year.

Finance – The largest slice of expenditure was for sending the Irish team to Hungary. The team was fully funded by the IOA grant. Other expenditure was for the two World cup events and for extra squad kit for WOC team members. It is hoped that further financial support will be provided for training events and coaching. It is planned that a series of senior squad fundraising events will be held in early spring next year to raise further funds and awareness for the squad in what promises to be a financially demanding year next year.

I am still a bit unsure as to the financial side of things within High performance. I feel I need to be more aware of the size of the annual squad grant. And the exact amounts available at any given time – also of the procedure required for spending the grant – I am still unsure of the FEXCO procedure.

I am hoping to put together a draft policy document and release to the senior squad for debate. The policy will highlight possible improvements to the likes of squad structure,

squad commitment, selection processes, coaching and training structures, fundraising, spending plans among other issues.

So far things are going well with the squad, it is an exciting time for the squad members with some very talented young orienteers coming into the senior ranks and a real hunger and focus on the next couple of years major competitions. Success at these events will however take plenty of hard work and commitment.

Report on Junior Squad – Ruth Lynam

Summer is a busy time for the Junior squad, here is a quick summary of activities May-Sep 2009.

Fundraising

The Quiz organised by Niamh O'Boyle during the Irish Championships weekend, with plenty of help from Juniors, raised €909

International Events

The 3 International representative events of the year were held during these 4 months.

Junior World Champs (JWOC, M/W20) in North Italy, led by Ruth Lynam

European Youth Champs (EYOC, M/W 16 & 18) in Serbia led by Greg McCann

Junior Home International (JHI M/W 14, 16, 18) in Wales led by Greg McCann & Ruth Lynam.

It was decided not to attend the Junior European Cup (JEC M/W 18 & 20) this year and use the funds for training on the terrain for JWOC next year. Attendance at recent JECs has been poor, it hasn't been useful competition experience, and training is badly needed.

The results were mixed as usual, but there are plenty of grounds for optimism. There were great relay runs both at JWOC & EYOC, which is something the Irish haven't been good at in recent years. There were very good results from the girls at JHI, though some of the boys were disappointed.

Training

Three training sessions were held during the summer.

A week in Italy on JWOC terrain, altitude acclimatisation & technical training as well as familiarisation with the terrain. Very useful on all counts. Led by Ruth Lynam.

5 days pre-EYOC on the terrain. This was done mainly to allow time to adjust to the altitude, but it was very successful, incorporating useful technical training as well as giving the competition experience. It is intended to do the same next year. Led by Greg McCann.

5 days in Denmark on JWOC 2010 terrain, again highly useful for general technical training as well as specific JWOC training.

For various reasons all 3 trips were led by a single leader. It is far more effective to have (at least) 2 leaders, better planning next year might ensure this.

Squad Summer Tour

The Squad tour went to the Scottish 6-day, which had a very good junior Irish attendance overall. Irish juniors ended up with 3 podium places. It was noticeable that they did particularly well on open mountain terrain.

Plans

The next squad event is a training weekend incorporating time trials on 10-11 October.

The International squad (JWOC & EYOC) for 2010 is identified and will receive specific training.

Technical Officers Report – Harold White

The Technical Sub-committee met by tele-conference on 9 March and I will distribute the meeting minutes and associated documents in due course.

Subvention for Major Events

The criteria for the Subvention to clubs for major events was discussed and a list drawn up of the mandatory and desirable requirements. As this is extensive and we are some way ahead of the next major event, I feel that it would be better to distribute it first and possibly agree it by e-mail, assuming that the next meeting will be several months ahead. The questions that arose from our discussion were:-

1. Should the event officials be approved by the technical sub-committee?
2. Should the event controllers be appointed by the TSC?
3. Should the proposed venue and terrain be approved by the TSC?

Any views at the meeting on these would be useful.

Provisional guidelines were drafted for the Irish Sprint Champs and are to be reviewed by the TSC in the light of the pilot event.

Discussion: The Chairperson supported the idea of 'soft' regulation.

Club Representation in Irish Relay Championships

In view of the current loose definition of club members for this relay event, our proposed re-drafting includes:-

1. They have been a member of an IOA or NIOA affiliated club for at least three months prior to the championship event
2. They have lived in Ireland for at least three out of the six months prior to the event
3. They have run in at least six IOA or NIOA registered events in the six months prior to the championship event
4. The team declaration form should include a statement signed by the Club Secretary or other club official, stating that all team members comply with the representation rules.

Another relay issue is that the Irish Relay Championship should become an 'Open' competition to bring it into line with the Individual competition.

It is proposed to re-word Rule 6.3.1 requiring one month's notice to change from one club to another to apply only to membership of an IOA or NIOA affiliated club. This will allow people to be a member of a club outside Ireland.

Discussion: Ruth Lynam suggested that it would be simpler if the criteria for relays and individual competitions were the same. There was general support for this suggestion.

The Chairperson supported the idea that the Irish Relay Championships should be an 'OPEN' competition; this will mean that foreign teams can enter.

Irish Championship Events

At the FIOA meeting earlier this year it was agreed that the main championship weekend should include at least the Classic (or long distance race) and relay competition, with the organisers having the option of holding one or more championship events out of the sprint, score, night, MTBO, and trailO disciplines. The sub-committee considered how the remaining Championship events should be allocated and it was felt that tenders should be invited for the remaining events without any formal rotation around the provinces. Ideally this should be done 2 years in advance but the SC is suggesting that this should be done now for 2010 and 2011. I have subsequently spoken to Fergal Buckley who is willing to deal with the tenders.

Discussion: Harold will co-ordinate with Fergal and place applications to run Championship events on the forum. Each application will be looked at on its merits and Fixtures Secretary will decide on this merit basis.

There is a planning and/ or controlling course for later in 2009.

Development Officers Report – Andrew Cox

Training:

June proved to be a very busy month as I caught up on some of the requests I had for training. I ran training sessions in the Junior Gaelscoil in Tramore and Newtown Junior school in their school grounds; training in the Minaun woods with St Declans Junior school, training in Glenshelane woods for the Faithlegg scout group who were camping there; orienteering mapwork skills with one of the base teams of 7th de la Salle Scouts who went on to win the all Ireland Phoenix Challenge. Due to my own holidays, I was unable to fulfill training for Portlaw youth group and also the Pact project in inner city Waterford. I plan to train their leaders during the school mid-term break.

There appears to be an almost infinite amount of possibilities in the training area, role for a full time Development Officer!

Schools:

I have updated the Irish schools blog. Provisional dates have been fixed for the 2010 Munster (Colligan wood, SE schools)) and Irish Schools Championships (Glengarra/Cork Schools). Leinster schools have agreed to host the 2011 Irish schools. These dates were sent to anyone I knew was interested in schools orienteering including: Liam O'Brien, Jim Callanan, Willie Fitzgerald (Cork Schools); Mary Healy, Terry Lawless (Leinster schools); Hugh Dobbs (SE schools/Wato); Kevin O'Callaghan (Connaught schools); Sean Cotter (BOC).

I also set the school annual affiliation fee at 5 euro (subject to IOA agreement). Monies collected will be used to fund prizes at the Irish Schools event. Cork Schools are to register as a Closed Club with the IOA.

Discussion on above: There is a need for someone to map School grounds. Mary O'Connell suggested that the Juniors may be able to do some of this work, perhaps during Transition Year. Andrew Cox suggested that Schools could be trained to do their own mapping.

The Chairperson suggested there may be an opportunity for the IOA to create an Instruction Booklet for Schools, perhaps to involve the Department of Education. This Instruction Booklet/Handbook could be available in paper and pdf format.

Mapping Officers Report – Brian Power

Mapping Activity: Map Register/Map Archive

No map register as such. – look at setting up one more formally. There is a lot of work to be done to accomplish this.

OCAD Course (Sept 26th – Dunboyne)

Ocad course – 26Sept in Dunboyne... advertise fully (9 interested). There is also a need for a basic mapping course. Aine will confirm the venue and attendees for the course.

Mapping Conference (Proposed Jan 2010)

Mapping conference – technical type conf, maybe in Spring.

Mapping Grants (2009-2010)

Andrew Cox will identify the schools that require mapping work, there is a Schools Mapping budget available to be spent. It is also possible for clubs to claim grants for mapping schools. It is believed that in the Cork Area schools partly funded the mapping of the Schools grounds. The mapping budget is €10,000 for this year and there is another €2,000 for Schools Mapping.

Sportident

Brian to keep SI co-ordinator role on committee to link with all regional SI people. The decision to split the Munster Kit is to be brought back to the committee by Brian Power to confirm.

Permanent Orienteering Course Maps

Some mapping going on in relation to POC's, clubs participating and making available.

Note: further discussion on this subject in Chairman's report.

Communications Report – Finn van Gelderen

Orienteering Viral Ad.

I have been planning an 90 second advert promoting orienteering that can be posted on utube, sent around as an attachment etc.. My plan is to shoot with a few elite orienteer's in the coming weeks to produce this ad. It will cover classic, relay and night-o. It is specifically elites as opposed to family as it's purpose it to promote orienteering as an international competitive sport. I have pulled favours and have got some additional crew and equipment specifically steadicam so the production values are much higher than the Orienteering Adventure and it will be much slicker and attractive.

Documentary on Orienteering in Ireland

As you may have seen from the o-groups I have put the notice out looking for footage of orienteering over the last 40 years for inclusion in a documentary. This is an ongoing project that will take some time to complete as it's very much a spare time one. I have had a good response and so far I have got as far back as 1987 with tapes of the IOC in Glengarrif. Potential interviewees include Joss Lynam with whom I have discussed the project with. I also got the rushes tape from the WOC in 1998 and what was interesting was that as far as I can tell it was TG4 that covered the event on TV at the time when I was the finished programme. It's definitely something we should explore. This is a long term project.

Promotion/Press

I'm only really starting on this now and so far have attended the South Dublin Sports Partnership come and try it day in Clondalkin. Sadly it wasn't well attended, but a few good things came out of it. I was talking to Thomas Mc Dermott in South Dublin County Sports Partnership and he expressed an interest in funding a permanent Orienteering Course in Corkagh Park in Clondalkin. Secondly I spoke to the Echo local newspaper and they have put notices in advertising next Sunday's event in Corkagh Park and they will also take pictures and copy for the next issue of the paper that I will provide. I realize it's not National Press, but I think we have to start locally first. As you may have been aware I have been taking pictures at some events looking for that elusive photograph that will get into the Irish Times Sports supplement. It is my intention to start to send copy to National Press on Sundays, but what we need is that one really good picture.

Farmleigh

3ROC's come and try orienteering at Farmleigh in July was very successful this year with Sonia O'Sullivan being one of the people there. I was unable to attend this year, but I have talked with Lindie Naughton and intend to do a lot of work next year building up to it and providing material to promote the sport. I think it is fantastic opportunity to promote the sport.

New Brochure/National Trails day

The new Brochure for Orienteering is designed, but I need one more picture for it that I hope to take in the coming week or so. This picture is staged. I need to put out the call to all the clubs for Logo's and contact details so that we can print stickers for each club to attach to the brochure. I think National Trails Day on the 4th of October is the first time we should use it and that we should provide a promotional pack for each club to use for that event and beyond. The pack should also have some posters too. So far I have good pictures of men, but there are very few good pictures of women and

I am still looking for some. I am getting quotes for the cost of brochures and posters, but I we need to decide how many for each club we need to print so that I can finalize the quotes.

TV

The only coverage of orienteering on the TV last year was the piece on OB sport of the IOC. Though it was good to get on RTE I think it was a confusing piece for anyone who saw it and it was also terrible weather and not shot well. I didn't have anything to do with it as it was Niall Mc Alinden that dealt with OB Sport last year. I think with some work it is possible to improve on this and hopefully the weather will be better at next years IOC and because of where it is the is more media opportunities with television channels in the North.

Photo Archive

I have been talking to Martin Flynn and we are looking into setting up a coppermine or similar web application that people can send me pictures of orienteering over the years so that there is a visual archive of the sport. The idea is that the people do the scanning to cut down on the amount of work I have to do. This archive will have a database attached so that people can be identified in the pictures etc.. My use for this archive is for the documentary, but I think it will have a greater use as time passes.

Finally I need to know what the allocation for communications is in the budget as I need to know how much there is so that I can spread this across everything I have mentioned above.

Discussion: The budget was confirmed at €5,000 by the Treasurer. The Brochure will also be made available to the Schools. Finn will make contact with the clubs taking part in National Trails Day. There is an old instruction booklet which could be updated for the schools.

Chairman's Report – Brendan O'Brien

Mid Term Review ISC

On 17th July the IOA mid-year review was completed and then submitted to the ISC.

Child Protection

Barbara Foley-Fisher has now been nominated as the IOA's official Garda vetting person; She has attended a recent seminar run by the Garda in this position.

Permanent Orienteering Courses

Philip Brennan has asked the IOA if we would invest in the POC that is being developed as part of the Dublin mountains initiatives. No exact figures have been discussed. It was felt that a contribution in kind would be appropriate, eg, maps, expertise. In one case of a recent PCO in Leinster the club has made the map free to download as a pdf.

Previous Chairman:

I would like to pay tribute to our previous Chairman Marcus Geoghegan for the good work, enthusiasm, energy and contribution he has made to the IOA during his tenure.

IOA and Orienteering's Image:

Brendan suggested that there is a need for a rebranding of the IOA and Orienteering. Particularly, a need for a more coherent presentation of the sport with less variability. Finn added that the IOA Logo was good but a bigger issue is that the sport was insular.

To extend the reach of Orienteering, perhaps to get it included in the Community Games, especially as it is part of the Junior Cycle PE Curriculum.

Education – Ed Niland

Not in meeting. Ed was unable to attend, but later emailed the following message;

“I'm taking October off work (30 days Time In Lieu to take back for the summer!), which I will be devoting to finishing off the training for the new tutors, and piloting the new courses, as well as getting them approved by Coaching Ireland.”

Fixtures:

3Roc have sent an email requesting to reschedule LOC to week before IOC in (LOC in Carlingford 2010, 18 April 08). It is believed that this is too close to the IOC and would present difficulties for people travelling from Munster. Fergal will contact 3Roc and ask them to come up with a more suitable date.

AOB

There has been concerns raised to members of the committee about a clash between clubs over the usage of maps. The Mapping Officer will look into this matter.