

Vice-Chairperson report - IOA AGM, May 2021.

As I mentioned in previous AGM reports, the functions of the Vice-Chairperson position are not well defined and will vary from year to year, depending on the projects and priorities facing IOA at any particular time. These activities have been greatly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the past year I have been involved in **contacts with external organisations** including Sport Ireland, Dublin City Council, working on cooperation with Local Sports Partnerships to introduce orienteering at local level, with improving the governance structure on IOA, with Sport Ireland to prepare for European Week of Sport next September, also with Sport Ireland on the development of a digital database of outdoor sports facilities, on Humphrey Murphy's review of Irish orienteering, and the Ready to Go Orienteering (RTGO) review group. Other members of the Executive Committee were involved in these as well.

Sport Ireland require that by the end of 2021 all National Governing Bodies will have adopted their Governance Code for Sport. IOA have already adopted the code but it required continual monitoring and refinement. The **Governance Sub-committee** of Fergal Buckley, Paul O'Sullivan-Hourihan, Sarah Ní Ruairc and myself have ongoing meetings to review and improve the IOA's governance structure. Mary O'Connell (Chairperson) has recently joined the group. This aims to improve oversight of the running of the Association and to prevent issues arising which might cause reputational damage to IOA or to orienteering, and to protect the volunteers who run the sport. You only have to look at the news to see the problems that the lack of good governance can cause organisations like sports bodies, charities and businesses.

In April Fergal Buckley and I attended a SportIreland governance webinar and made a presentation on the IOA's progress as a "Type A" organisation (i.e. voluntary, with no employees) with governance.

Another area of involvement in the past year was the IOA response to Covid-19 and the **Covid sub group** (Áine Joyce, Stuart Scott, Fergal Buckley and myself) were continually monitoring the Government health regulations and tailoring orienteering's response to comply with these, promoting permanent courses, virtual courses and MapRun courses across the country. This then led on to the "**Return to O**" group which worked (and is still working) to make a transition back to normal orienteering possible.

Finally, I would like to remind readers that all the members of the IOA Executive do this work voluntarily in their spare time, and that all have other commitments like their own O-clubs, their own training and competition, and even a non-orienteering life with family, work, study and other interests.

John McCullough
Vice-Chairperson
May 2021.