



**Eoin Browne**

**Orienteering Education**

**21<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

It has only been eight months since the last our last AGM. As everyone is aware this has been a very difficult time for running training courses. Only two in-person courses were possible in the period between before the current shutdown. These took place in St.Annes Park Dublin for Dublin City Sport and Wellness Partnership and in Dundalk for Louth LSP. There have been no instructor training course since last July.

On a more positive note, our **Ready to Go training** for teachers, LSP staff and partner organisations have moved online and are proving to be very successful. There has been a very high demand from teachers and LSPs for these online sessions.

The training was originally developed for teachers as a one-day in-person introduction to teaching orienteering. Over the past few months, the syllabus has been adapted both for online delivery and to target a wider variety of clients groups. Many activities and resources have been developed to the enhance the online experience for tutors and participants.

The current arrangement involves two interactive zoom sessions, it is hoped to run practical follow up sessions as covid restrictions are eased. The first of these follow ups are planned for Cork on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of June.

To date online following online training has taken place:

Cork LSP	5 Courses
Meath LSP	2 Courses
Laoise LSP	1
Cavan LSP	1
Tipperary LSP	1
IOA Office	1
Dublin City SWP	1
Louth	1

As well as training for teachers, Sports Inclusion Officers, Community Sports officers and Youth Workers our collaboration with Local Sports Partnerships has resulted in a great deal of mapping. Cavan, Cork, Monaghan, Fingal, Tipperary, Dublin City have benefitted form new urban orienteering maps and Maprun courses.

### **OCAD Training**

Introductory mapping training was delivered online over five weeks in February and March. Seven OCAD teams licences were purchased by the IOA for this course and OCAD were able



to facilitated us by extending the software trial period for the other participants. There were 14 participants on the course, that was facilitated by myself, Pat Healy and Eileen Young. This was the first time we had delivered this type of training and there was a lot of learning all round – feedback to the sessions was very positive and I would like to thank everyone involved in this pilot. We are planning a second course in the Autumn.

### **MapRun Training**

Eileen Young, Pat Healy and Tony Cotter facilitated a number of online sessions aimed at training club members to create and upload courses suitable for Maprun. These webinars also addressed many issues with older and non-georeferenced maps.

### **Training Scheme for New Orienteers**

An element of our Coaching Plan for 2021 includes engaging with clubs to develop a skills pathway for Adults and Juniors new to orienteering. I plan to contact clubs over the summer to outline the details on this.