

Development Officer's Report to Orienteering Ireland AGM May 2023

I am listing the work covered in the past year to illustrate the need for a more comprehensive plan regarding development going forward. It is not possible for one person to be the sole development officer for the country. I have managed to devote a lot of time to the role in the SE as I recently retired. It requires a group of 3 to 4 officers to cover the country effectively, as I have indicated in many reports before now. This will be my last year as officer (if elected) and I am happy to be involved in the development process as a SEVO representative.

Schools

The IOSG (schools group) has not met since 2019 due to Covid.

The Secondary school events for 2022-23 have been completed. The Irish Primary schools take place on May 17th.

SE schools

- Planned and organised 4 regional events for SE Schools: Kennedy Park, Wexford ; Woodstock, Kilkenny ; Templemore, Tipperary; Rathwood, Carlow
- Planned and organised SE schools at Castlecomer (Secondary) and Kilkenny Castle (Primary). A huge thank you to all the SEVO club members and helpers from other clubs who volunteered on the day of the events. It is only possible with sufficient stewards.
- Planned a primary schools Come and Try it for 4th/5th class Primary at Waterford People's park for WOD (World Orienteering Day) in May
- Organised in-school maze days in 2 primary and 1 secondary schools.
- Organised a selection race at St Declans, Kilmacthomas for their 1st to 3rd years.
- Planned and organised the recent Irish schools champs at Kennedy Park, Co. Wexford. As well as the talented individual winners, team medals were won by schools from 7 different counties: Midleton CBS, Newtown Waterford, Clonakilty CC, St Angela's Waterford, Tullow CS, Clonmel High school, Wilsons Hospital, Scarriff CC, Waterpark College, Presentation Kilkenny, and St Mary's Midleton. There were 13 different schools represented in the 18 individual prize winners.

Leinster schools: a huge thanks as ever to Mary Healy (GEN) for putting on a series of well attended Score format events at Ardgillan (x2), Corkagh (x 3), Malahide castle (x 2) and ending up with the Leinster champs at Trooperstown. <http://www.schoolsorienteeing.ie/>

Cork schools focused on 2 massive events for both primary and secondary at Fota and Tramore Valley Park. Thanks to Liam O'Brien (CSOA) and all his team for their dedication to the sport. <https://corkschoolorienteering.ie/>

Comment: huge numbers, back into the regular programme of events after covid. Secondary schools quicker to get back out to events. Younger children have missed out on 2 years of experience. Most noticeable at 1st year level. Cost of buses has increased. Staffing at Secondary level may be an issue.

Question: **how are we addressing the issue of transfer of interest from schools to club events?**

Uniformed groups

Regional scout specific events in Waterford (Tower Hill x 2 and Waterford peoples park) and Kilkenny/Carlow (Castlecomer). Scouts also accommodated at club events across the country on a regular basis.

Comment: specific focus on uniformed groups is rewarding. They do have specific needs which need to be met.

Question: **How can uniformed groups be best incorporated in regular club events?**

Sports partnerships/local authority

I am currently working with 5 SPs in the SE. The personnel constantly change so it requires regular meeting and discussion. They are very keen to work with us. Support for mapping via the Urban adventure sports initiative.

- Waterford Active Cities: provided 3 Maprun courses and 3 photoO courses to be used during the Winterval festival in December.
- Sports Ability month: facilitated 2 events for Waterford SP for St Johns Special school, Anne le Roy Centre in Dungarvan.
- Her Outdoors week: in conjunction with Active Wexford, put on an urban summer event on in Duncannon.
- School mapping (follow up to RTGO mostly, see list)
- Updating maps used for POCs and Maprun (as listed on SP websites)
- Thematic Mapruns added: Clonmel Walled town, Co.Tipperary and Waterford City walls, in conjunction with local Heritage officers
- Mapruns provided for Tullow CS and Knockbeg College (Co.Carlow)
- Provided a Heritage photo orienteering course for Lismore heritage, Co. Waterford.
- Organised a series of urban races with the support of SPs at New Ross, Co.Wexford; Cahir, Co.Tipperary; Bagenalstown, Co.Carlow; and Tullow, Co.Carlow.

Question: **could we keep some sort of updated register of SP contacts?**

Some links (currently updating)

Waterford <https://www.waterfordsportspartnership.ie/category/orienteering/>

Kilkenny <https://www.krsp.ie/active-kilkenny/orienteering/>

Tipperary <https://www.tipperarysports.ie/content/orienteering-1>

Cork <https://www.corksports.ie/orienteering/>

Louth <https://louthlsp.com/what-we-do/programmes/louth-local-adventures-orienteering/>

Community groups

- Southend Family Resource centre: Maprun course of Wexford rocks walking trail
- Farronshoneen Community youth services: Maprun and Maze orienteering over 3 sessions for their Summer camp.

Maprun

- Provided a webinar on Maprun
- Updated the Maprun courses and maps for the SE region. Thanks to Déirdre Ní Challanáin for all her help in getting the maps uploaded and replaced on the OI website.

Andrew Cox

22/04/23