

Orienteering Australia

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

1 & 2 December, Silver Room, Australian Institute of Sport, Leverrier St, Bruce, ACT

Minutes

Program

Saturday 1 December 2012

9.30am to 5pm

5.30pm Conference orienteering event

7.30pm Dinner at the AIS

8.15pm Post dinner discussion: Presentation and discussion of ASC research findings on participation in sport by GFK Moon research

Sunday 2 December 2012 9am to 3pm

Attendance

Both days

Blair Trewin - President, Robin Uppill OA Board, Robert Spry OA Board, Grant Bluett OA Board, Bruce Bowen OA Board, Mike Dowling OA Board, Craig Feuerherdt OA Board, John Harding OA, John Scown OA & ACT, Kay Haarsma OA, Craig Steffens MTBO, Paul Prudhoe NSW, Andrew Lumsden NSW, Geoff Wood ACT, Peter Mayer SA, Jenny Casanova SA, Martin Bicevskis TAS, Christine Brown TAS, Rob Edmonds VIC, Jennifer Binns WA, Richard Matthews WA, James Mitchell QLD, Liz Bourne QLD, Lachlan Hallett (TEO – observer).

Saturday all day

Nick Dent OA, Mace Neve Athlete rep, Matts Troeng SOF (Eventor).

Saturday Eventor & website sessions

Ron Pallas NSW, Bill Jones ACT, Bob Mouatt ACT, Anna Hyslop ACT, Nicole Davis WA.

Saturday ASC session

Andrew Pratley ASC.

Apologies: Rohan Hyslop ACT, Bruce Arthur VIC, Barbara Hill NSW, Andrew Collins ASC.

Abbreviations:

AASC Active After Schools Program
AO Australian Orienteer
ASC Australian Sports Commission
HP High performance
JWOC Junior World Orienteering Championships
KPI Key Performance Indicator
MTBO mountain bike orienteering
NOL National Orienteering League
OA Orienteering Australia
WOC World Orienteering Championships
WRE World Ranking Event

1. WELCOME & CONFERENCE OPENING

1.1. Welcome by Blair Trewin, President

The President's opening remarks noted the new High Performance (HP) Strategy

announcements by the ASC on the previous day. He said that the implications for OA included a need to improve the OA HP Strategy with defined performance targets, and a need to increase participation in the younger age groups to significantly improve HP outcomes in a 2020 horizon.

2. MINUTES

2.1 Appointment of verifiers. Geoff Wood and Jenny Casanova were appointed.

2.2 Confirmation of previous minutes – 2012 AGM. James Mitchell advised that he and Rob Crosato attended and asked that the minutes be amended to reflect this. With this amendment, it was moved Mitchell/Spry that the minutes be accepted. The motion was carried.

2.3 Minutes of 2011 Conference. For information only, having been endorsed at the 2012 AGM. Noted.

2.4 Matters arising from previous minutes

Richard Matthews queried why OA did not have a Patron. It was noted by the President that this was filled for some years by the Swedish Ambassador to Australia, and OA would consider filling it again if a suitable eminent person was identified and available.

3. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Board report. Accepted. Moved Bourne/Edmonds.

3.2 Finance report (Bruce Bowen)

3.2.1 Budget report. It was moved Prudhoe/Spry that the OA Board consider the feasibility of a change in the financial year to July-June. Motion agreed.

3.2.2 Budget projections. It was moved Matthews/Wood that the financial report be accepted. Motion agreed.

3.3 2011 and 2012 mid-year statistics and future requirements.

John Harding advised that there was an ongoing need to collect:

- i. a comprehensive set of statistics for the calendar year to include in the OA Annual Report, and provide information to the IOF and ASC
- ii. mid-year summary statistics and performance indicators for the ASC Annual Performance Review of OA.

These requirements were noted.

3.4 Update of Member Protection Policy

It was moved by Dowling/Mayer that the draft updated Member Protection Policy be approved. This motion was agreed.

3.5 Updating OA Operational Manual

John Harding noted that there were a number of out of date sections of the OA Operational Manual but there had not been enough time to address all of these before the Conference. The President advised that this would be addressed by the Board in the new year in conjunction with the move to the new website. Noted.

4. ASC ADDRESS & PARTICIPATION PROJECTS

4.1 ASC Sports Performance Review of Orienteering: Presentation by Andrew Pratley, Orienteering Sports Consultant at the ASC.

Andrew gave an overview of the ASC's Annual Performance Assessment of OA:

- there was a medium rating given to HP performance as some KPIs (eg. performances at World Championships & collaboration with universities and sports

institutes) were not achieved

- the rating given to Participation performance was high-medium, with excellent growth in members but expected growth in numbers of controllers not achieved
Andrew said that there will be changes in HP funding requirements as a result of the previous day's ASC announcements of a new sports high performance strategy. How these changes affect orienteering will be clarified in the coming weeks. In respect of participation projects, it was important that new programs are sustainable. For both HP and participation, it would be desirable to look for alternative funding streams.
Mike Dowling advised that a partnership between Orienteering Tasmania and the Tasmanian Institute of Sport to undertake talent identification was very successful.

4.2 OA report on current status of participation projects

John Harding gave an overview of the OA submission to the ASC in September (in the Conference papers) on the status of current and new Participation projects and the budget projection through to 2014. This was noted.

5 **WEBSITE AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS part 1**

5.1 **EVENTOR project: report by Craig Feuerherdt**

Craig introduced Matts Troeng from Eventor. Craig then gave a pictorial chart presentation of the various elements of the Eventor project. He said it was up and running for event management of the Christmas 5 Days and Easter 2013 carnivals and the Victorian event calendar had been loaded. He hoped that all states and territories would load their calendars and his vision was that once this was done that a newcomer interested in trying orienteering could do a search on all events coming up within a radius of 20kms of where they lived.

He reported that the project team had been working on various customisations for Australia

- event management for the Christmas 5 Days and Easter 2013 carnivals
- memberships for the different state associations
- paypal and poli integration
- time zones
- social media authentication

He envisaged that training and support would be provided by

- the workshop later that day
- ad hoc workshops
- online resources, including wiki and forums
- local support from at least one person in each state trained in Eventor

Formal endorsement of Eventor by Conference and ongoing financing were discussed. A paper on financing options was presented by Blair Trewin.

Motion 1: That the OA Conference agrees to adopt the Eventor system as the national system for online event management and online membership and strongly urges all state associations to maximize their use of it. Moved: Mayer/Wood. The motion was passed.

Motion 2: That half the annual licence fee for Eventor be recouped by adding the cost to the state registration fee, and that the other half be recouped by a levy of 75 cents per event day on all events at the Australian Championships and Easter carnivals. Moved: Mayer/Matthews. The motion was passed.

6 **WEBSITE AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS part 2**

6.1 Website redevelopment project

Nicole Davis gave a presentation on the status and features of the OA website redevelopment project. She said it was planned to launch the website after 90% of the content was in, in about 2 months. It was designed to be readable on a mobile phone because the increasing proportion of people accessing website information from their phones.

7 HIGH PERFORMANCE PLANS and STRATEGIES

7.1 Report by Grant Bluett and Kay Haarsma on current strategies and plans

Grant noted that for the last 20 years there has been a high performance pathway to the World Orienteering Championships through the NOL series and JWOC, supplemented by national squads, ad hoc camps, and trans-Tasman competitions. However, for the last 10 years, the reality has been that foot WOC performances have declined, aside from Hanny Allston's performances. A major cause has been a lack of progression from JWOC representation, leading to a decreased pool of elite orienteers in their early 20s striving to reach the next level of WOC. So there is a need to strengthen the performance pathway support system from juniors through to WOC level, and we need to strive to get WOC and JWOC medals in foot and MTBO. We cannot just hope that a Hanny Allston and an Adrian Jackson will periodically emerge. We have to have the right systems and structures in place conducive to developing orienteers to WOC medal level. Kay supported Grant's views and said that there needed to be stronger linkages from state performance development programs to the national squads. We should also think outside the square and look at concepts such as street sprint orienteering to encourage more juniors into the talent pool.

7.2 Performance development pathway from club to international competition and Foot and MTB WOCs (Gareth Candy and Hanny Allston)

Gareth and Hanny had both attended the AIS 3-day National HP Strategic Workshop in November at the AIS and each gave presentations based on both things they had learnt at this Workshop and from their own experiences.

Gareth recommended that what OA needed to develop was not a HP pathway but an orienteering participant pathway for personal development for all orienteers, a subset of which was an improved HP pathway.

Hanny argued that we can produce world class orienteers but there was a need to

- have a clear pathway and performance standards along the pathway
- identify gaps and prioritise addressing those gaps
- review the development management structures
- increase the numbers of expertly trained coaches who know both physical training development as well as orienteering technical coaching
- insist on professional approaches and encourage perfectionism.

Hanny's presentation was circulated to Conference delegates after the Conference.

8 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

A. Building and strengthening a performance development pathway at the club and state level.

It was agreed to do the following:

1. Form a working group to develop a pathways performance plan over the next 2 to 3 months.
2. Aim to reinvigorate coaching by developing a stronger coaching culture. Actions to include appointing a head coach and holding a coaching workshop in Victoria immediately after the Easter 2013 weekend events.
3. Review squad structures as part of the pathways plan.

B. EVENTOR: the nitty gritty of implementing EVENTOR for state associations and clubs.

The general topics were

- Creating and administering an Event
- Setting up and administering Memberships

Follow up action: States to nominate administrators for events to Craig Feuerherdt.

9. TECHNICAL

9.1. Technical report (Robin Uppill)

The Technical Report was noted. Richard Matthews advised that OAWA had decided not to have any Badge events in 2013.

9.2 Mapping (Adrian Uppill)

The written Mapping Report was noted. Robin Uppill did a Powerpoint presentation on the proposed options for changing various ISOM symbols and asked delegates to provide feedback to Adrian.

9.3 Information Technology

The IT Report was noted.

Post dinner discussion

Feedback from the ASC National Participation Workshop on research into sports participation and discussion of findings applicable to orienteering

John Harding and Barbara Hill attended the 2 day the ASC National Participation Workshop on research into sports participation in November. John presented to Conference attendees the slide show produced by ASC contracted researchers BFK Moon on research on 4,000 people aged 12 to 65 on their motivations to participate or not participate in sport or physical training activities.

9 INTERNATIONAL

10.1 Report on international developments (IOF Executive member, Mike Dowling)

Mike's written report was noted.

Mike advised that at the Congress 20 out of 32 Federations supported a proposal by Spain to have some involvement in organizing or monitoring or incorporating adventure racing. However, this was an insufficient number for formal agreement to the proposal. Instead a working group was set up to further explore the extent of adventure racing around the world with a serious orienteering component. Rob Preston is the Australian representative on this working group.

In respect of the new WOC format, it will be implemented by Italy in 2014. It was agreed by Conference that states should be encouraged to try the new sprint format. Paul Prudhoe said NSW is planning a 2014 NOL Relay using the new format in the weekend after Easter 2014.

Grant Bluett said that formats using head to head racing were very desirable. Peter Mayer said that such racing was well suited to park type settings.

10.2 2015 World Cup bid, Tasmania (Mike Dowling)

Mike confirmed that this bid for the first week in 2015 is proceeding, with formal approval by the IOF at the next IOF Council meeting. Key appointments have been made by OTAS:

- Event Director: Bernard Walker
- Assistant Director: Christine Brown
- Marketing and Promotions Director: Mike Dowling

The start and finish will be in Hobart and mid-week events in central Tasmania.

10.3 What would be involved in Australia bidding for a WOC: report from Committee formed at the last Conference

Developments since the last Conference:

- Blair Trewin circulated a paper on what may be involved
 - New Zealand has been awarded World Masters Championships in 2017 so the earliest year realistically Australia might be considered for a WOC would be 2019, with a bid required in 2014
 - a bid would be aspirational unless a substantial funding sponsor was found
- Kay Haarsma suggested that alternately a bid for JWOC or the MTBO WOC/JWOC be considered.

11. MTBO REPORT

11.1 Report by Craig Steffens

Craig Steffens presented a report and noted the following.

Developments

- new national MTBO Development Officer Craig Steffens
- new national MTBO Technical Officer Kathy Liley
- MTBO WREs in Australia in 2012 and 2013

2013 plans

- Seek ASC approval for MTBO event controller and coach accreditation
- Document intermediate and advanced skills training plans
- Develop new event delivery methods to increase participation

Craig's report was noted.

12. OA STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2014

12.1 Review of performance indicators and responsibilities of OA, States and Clubs (John Harding)

John Harding tabled the review of the status of the Strategic Plan strategies presented to the ASC in September as a requirement for the Annual ASC Sports Performance Assessment. He said we were now halfway through the 4 year period and needed to fine tune both the strategies and KPIs. There would be major changes to the HP section in the wake of the ASC changes and in the wake of OA plans to develop a performance pathway. There needed to be feedback from states on actions required by states and clubs.

Jennifer Binns suggested adding a blue sky aspirations statement to 2020. Andrew Lumsden suggested aligning the Conference agenda with the Strategic Plan major section headings.

A subgroup of Peter Mayer, Paul Prudhoe and Liz Bourne was created to assist the Executive Officer in updating the Strategic Plan. It was suggested that a Strategic Plan workshop be held in conjunction with the Easter Carnival.

12.2 Annual review of risk management issues (Robert Spry)

Robert Spry tabled a paper on risk management issues that had emerged during the last 12 months. This was noted.

ACTIONS:

1. Paul Prudhoe agreed to circulate the risk statement that ONSW has on the back of its registration forms.
2. OA will update its Risk Management statement in the Operational Plan and state associations will review and update their risk management plans.
3. A risk statement be included in the Eventor membership and online event registration forms.

13. DEVELOPMENT

13.1 Brief reports by each state association on new development initiatives

ACT:

- limiting factor in increasing participation is enough volunteer organisers
- street O has paid organisers
- how to best recognize volunteers is an issue

NT:

- 80% increase in participation in wet season series
- most successful method of attracting newcomers was printing fliers costing 15 cents each and putting them in workplaces and gyms

QLD:

- new website live in Dec 2011, working well
- increasing use of SI capturing more data
- large amount of manual work still to capture casuals

NSW:

- memberships up 14% on last year, 655 casuals registered, double last year
- ASC funded new programs (sthn & western Sydney, duo and new program in Lismore-Ballina) generating encouraging numbers
- request to map 12 schools in Lismore
- Greater Western Sydney AFL team did one event; Spooks night in Centennial Park popular
- community newspapers used to publicise local events; major article in June in weekend Australian on Tim Cox

SA:

- casual registrations receive Enews and many are converting to full members
- Bridget Anderson doing a great job with Junior Arrows and Darts in boosting juniors
- maps are on the website
- a number of schools have taken on AASC orienteering
- TEO has 46 new members
- the SA Rogaining Association partnered with the Asthma Foundation for an event and attracted lots of corporate entries

TASMANIA:

- Corporate Challenge, Primary Schools and Secondary Schools competitions have been consolidated into 1 program running from 12 noon to 6pm
- have bought a stock of \$17 P cards for electronic registrations. Children enjoy competing in pairs with 1 P card between 2.

VICTORIA:

- the street series continues to grow
- a lot of effort has gone into signing up new members
- the Gippsland project funded by the ASC is the major new initiative

WA:

- planning a joint promotion with the Amanda Young Foundation to target the 18-25 age group in Sept 2013 on a university campus
- relays in the metro area very successful. No badge events in 2013
- trialing much more lightweight control stands

13.2 Schools Committee report (Ian Dalton)

- the recommendation to trial an Australian Schools Sprint Championship was supported and referred to OAWA for consideration for the 2014 Australian Championships program
- the offer of a volunteer to maintain the Junior page on the OA website was supported
- the rest of the Schools Committee report was noted

13.3 Events Committee report (Greg Hawthorne)

The report was noted, with the following comments

- there is a need to ensure there is no clash with the 2017 World Masters Championships in NZ in 2017
- in 2018 SA does not wish to do the MTBO nationals because of overload
- all state championship dates should be requested and published on the OA website
- Paul Prudhoe recommended that OA have a policy statement on WREs. Blair Trewin said that in practice Australia has 5 foot WREs in even years and 4 in odd years, and this can be included in the Operational Plan

13.4 The Australian Orienteer

Mike Hubbert's report was noted. His recommendation that the members' subscription rate not be increased for 2013 and 2014 was accepted. It was considered that his request for clarification on the minimum order by states of the magazine was addressed at the previous Conference.

13.5 Sponsorships

Blair Trewin reported that there had been a change of owner of the SILVA business in Sweden and a decline in sales in navigation equipment in Australia. Fiskars (the SILVA franchisee in Australia) would continue to provide sponsorship of prizes for the NOL Series and would not continue to advertise in the AO, but may advertise online.

Wildfire Sports in QLD is keen to have a sponsorship arrangement with OA and state associations to provide \$3500 worth of prizes across the national and state championships, in return for state and national website links and newsletter advertising. Wildfire also wishes to sponsor the national MTBO series and it sells good map boards. State associations asked for clarification on what the sponsorship would mean for each state, and reserved the right to reject it if it clashed with an existing state association sponsor.

It was moved Steffens/Haarsma that the OA Board continue negotiations with Wildfire Sports.

13.6 Ongoing funding of an Enews editor

\$3480 to fund an Enews editor for 12 months was agreed.

13.7 Ongoing funding of a website manager

It was agreed to fund a site manager function of around 5 hours' work per month from the existing budget. It was not agreed to fund a website content manager role at this point in time.

13.8 The Swiss Schools program: potential for Australia (Peter Mayer)

The Swiss OF provided a package of high quality resource materials written in Swiss and billed OA for \$1100. The material was sent to Peter Mayer to evaluate. Peter reported that while the material was good, there are restrictions on use if it is translated into English for the Australian environment. Other options include to examine existing material in Australia and improve these using concepts from the Swiss material.

John Harding advised that the Level 0 manual written by Debbie Gale for OA 12 years ago for training teachers in the basics of orienteering was now out of date and out of print and OA had not been able to find a qualified person with enough time to do the update.

James Mitchell noted that QOA had a downloadable book on its website and a new Development Officer who might be able to do the Level 0 Manual update. He would investigate and advise further.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Andrew Lumsden congratulated the President on a successful Conference which he had felt had been well worth attending.

14.2 Mike Dowling recommended that OA create a Hall of Fame.

ACTION: It was agreed that the OA Board investigate this and bring a proposal to the Annual General Meeting at Easter.

The Conference closed at 2.55pm.