

Orienteering Queensland

9.1b Conference Item on Storage & Security of Electronic Copies of maps using O-Maps

This paper relates to storage and security of electronic copies of maps using O-Maps, and the possibility of states joining together to reduce the cost of using this facility. Information from Lance Read is given below.

Tim

Lance Read on behalf of OQ has spent considerable time and effort investigating options for ways Orienteering Queensland and its clubs can better manage, archive and allow access to its maps.

Issues that we as an organisation need to address are:

- a) Lost map files from critical PC failures or human errors.
- b) Lost map files from mappers retiring or sadly passing.
- c) Poor version control with multiple map versions in the orienteering domain as well-intentioned orienteers make map corrections but without the aid of a central database.

There are also a host of smaller issues we think that O-Maps can assist with such as managing map sales for permanent courses, street map database for night events and the ever burgeoning numbers of school maps.

Lance has briefed our Technical Officer, Anna Sheldon, our Mapping Officer, Brenton Gray and also liaised with two clubs to date (Ugly Gully and Enoggeroos). All parties strongly support the O-Maps concept.

With respect to costs, a commercial dropbox account, or even a simple backup program would be of the order of \$30 per month or say \$400 per year. We think that the \$1500 fee, if split amongst three states say, is eminently reasonable.

By way of comparison, a single lost map or OCAD file would be thousands of dollars of lost time and money.

OQ would strongly encourage other states to consider nominating a person (Mapping Officer) to be a representative to investigate the suitability of O-Maps for their state. If indeed they find it unsuitable or there are better alternatives such information shared amongst all states would be very valuable.

In any event, OQ is going to start to take advantage of the 2017 free trial to begin to upload its map database with expectation to renew/pay for an additional two years if O-Maps performs as expected and would be grateful for other states to consider their current position and liaise with OQ over the next six months to decide if O-Maps also suits their requirements.