

SI subcommittee Report – September 2011

Orienteering Victoria Board Meeting

Decisions Required:

Approve replacement of 1 600W inverter at estimated cost of \$169

OVERALL STATUS

On track for Oceania Carnival

ACTIVITIES & PLANS

1. Thorough review of all gear prior to Oceania complete
2. Battery replacement in 50 (of c. 130 total OV) control units in progress (cost c. \$1,250)
3. All controls upgraded to latest firmware version (by Ian Chennell)
4. Spreadsheet developed to track all OV owned controls (by serial number) and permit recording of details of data such as battery replacement dates

HIGHLIGHTS

1. No major additional spending anticipated for a year or so after above items are attended to. Batteries in controls not replaced should be good for a year or so before they will also have to be done. More clubs are buying controls so OV will only need to buy/maintain a strategic inventory of gear in future.
2. Debate about "is SI worth the effort" seems to have died somewhat with more familiarity and easier user processes with newer versions of the hardware.

ISSUES, CONCERNS & RISKS

1. New software being developed by multiple different suppliers for use of SPORTident brand hardware seems likely to end the monopoly of OE (Kramer) software. However more choice means more problems deciding what OV should have/make available for major events or, perhaps, in the future adopting a policy of encouraging more SI acquisitions by clubs such that OV "gets out of the SI business" except to the extent of extra stuff needed for major carnivals.
2. Communications remains (and probably will always be) an issue as some event organisers still expect all gear to arrive in perfect condition and work intuitively (without them having to read any instructions). In fact it is still not uncommon to open a box in the trailer to find a "helpful" little note that says "item x is missing or broken" – information that should have been given to someone who can do something about it (e.g. Ian C or me).

Ian Dodd
Chair of SI subcommittee.