

SI subcommittee Report – December 2012

Orienteering Victoria Board Meeting

Decisions Required: Approve expenses

OVERALL STATUS

Annual upgrade of gear completed

ACTIVITIES & PLANS

The main activity has been the upgrading/maintenance of damaged SI gear:

1. OV owns 133 control boxes. 50 had batteries replaced before Oceania. 54 have now gone to Colin Price in NSW to also have the battery replaced (postage cost \$21-40). The other 29 were deemed to be OK (newer/little-used units) after checking their readings. This will get us through Christmas and will be reviewed again before Easter 2013.
2. The 2 older of the 4 USB card readers (aka download controls) have malfunctioned due to damaged cables, probably from being wound-up tightly (a poor practice with any cables). The 2 left will get us through Christmas and I will review this again before Easter. The two damaged cables may be repairable. If not, they will become "normal" controls as they still work OK otherwise.
3. The defunct Canon A4 results printer has been replaced by a HP MFC inkjet unit at a cost of \$88-00. New inks will be needed for Christmas 5-days (the printer only came with a "starter pack").
4. All the blue SI control cases, the printer tub and 2 of the 3 laptop bags were found to be badly damaged. These have been replaced with what I believe to be strong, waterproof carrying cases at a total cost of \$386-98. Hopefully these will protect the delicate gear and not be broken by rough handling or mispacking of the trailer!

Other news:

1. New version 10 and 11 sticks are now available and in use. These will make the version 9 sticks totally redundant. After the trade-in program we still have 10 of these left so the price has been dropped again to just \$60 to (hopefully) clear the "old" stock. Orienteering Victoria will lose around \$100 on these sticks if they can be sold at this price. We will now stock mostly the basic model (version 8) and version 10's for elites/wannabe elites. The 10's have proved popular already. A handful of "show ponies" have the version 11 sticks that flash after punching. (I'm hoping for one for Christmas??)
2. The new model sticks required an upgrade to Orienteering Victoria control firmware which has now been done (took about 3-4 minutes to do *each* of the 133 units!) along with some general cleaning of sticky tape(!) and re-numbering.
3. All the 3 laptops have been checked, latest software installed and are now up-to-date again. OV1 has a minor fault that does not affect its performance.

Future developments:

I plan to purchase a copy of the latest version of OE (2010 version 11) which is now in use in most orienteering countries and will, I believe, integrate with Eventor better

than OE2003. It is also easier to teach and has additional facilities that will be useful for major events. It will be possible to still run the old OE (2003) for events whilst everyone gets up to speed with the new program; they are quite separate programs. Eventually everyone will want to use the latest version but no one will be forced to use it until they are ready. I believe BG already have a copy but OV will need the "Large Pro" version for major events. Of course I want this running for Easter 2013 (and tested on some events before then). The cost to OV is still being sorted out but should be less than \$900. I do not propose to update the relay version at this time as we use it infrequently and should be able to keep using it for a while yet.

ISSUES, CONCERNS & RISKS

None.

Ian Dodd
Chair of SI subcommittee.