

Junior squad report to OV Council– October 2012 –by Mark Hennessy, Rebels Coordinator

Food/fund raising at events

The **junior tent and catering** have continued to operate at SS events as well as at the Victorian Relay Championships (Bendigo) and the Victorian Middle and Long Distance Championships (Beechworth area), the latter two events requiring successful management of, and the logistics of catering at multi-day events at a long distance from home.

The catering sales achieved greater revenue than previous years, aided in part by the incorporation of the cake stall into the Junior Tent. Since the effort includes some juniors who do not get selected into the schools team, and their parents, it is recommended that consideration be given to spending some of the money on activities that benefit all of the juniors, not just those who travel with the Victorian Secondary Schools Team as members or travelling reserves.

Junior Squad Support crew - need to form a new crew for 2013

Anne Robinson has indicated that she expects to pull back from her role as overall catering coordinator and treasurer in 2013, with Angus going into Year 12.

I am withdrawing from a coordinating role, due to Emily finishing school, and my taking on convening of the Bush Committee. I am happy to continue take an interest in the Rebels, and to help out where required.

The Dalheim family has taken a lead role with regard to the Junior tent at events, and other parents have helped out. I think we need to invite the Dalheim family to take a coordinating role for the tent and the catering, and call for support from other parents of juniors.

I think coaching is a specialised skill and responsibility for it should be the hands of an appointed dedicated coach, and not be the responsibility of the Junior Squad Support Crew.

Junior Development Coaching

Apart from the Secondary Schools Team, there seem to be bits and pieces of coaching happening, and there is some eagerness for more junior coaching and training activities, including in the lead up to Xmas 5 days and January, as well as coaching throughout the year. There is coaching capacity in Victoria that is not being fully utilised.

There is a sense that some of the Victorian Juniors are on the verge of becoming elite junior competitors, and need some systematic coaching to continue their progression towards excellence.

The Junior Squad Support Crew concept has worked well for the past three years in regard to building a keen cohesive bunch of juniors, but in regard to coaching we have really just scraped by, with one training camp each year.

Junior coaching in Victoria can be separated into two main roles:

- 1 **Junior development coach role (year round)** helping all juniors from senior primary school upwards. This might involve a lead coach, and some assistant coaches.

2 Secondary schools team coach role (Chair of selectors for the Victorian Secondary Schools Team for Australian Schools Championships, and travelling coach with the team).

Hopefully Steve Bird will continue in the latter role, which he has performed outstandingly well in the past few years. With regard to the former role, I think it would be good if we could advertise a funded position as Junior Development Coach, who would work collaboratively with the Junior Squad Support Crew. It would be wonderful if Yarra Valley Orienteering Club are interested in offering funding again. The previous (2010) position description could be amended, removing the tasks now taken on by the Rebels Support Crew.

Performance

This year's Secondary Schools Championships saw better depth from the Victorian Juniors, with a full team, and without having to promote Junior Boys or Girls to fill a senior team, as has happened in previous years. Steve and Nicky did a fantastic job as Coach and Manager respectively, according to one junior correspondent. In the overall teams competition, we were well placed in a second bunch, behind clear winner Tasmania:

1 st Tasmania	53 pts	2 nd NSW	36 pts	2 nd QLD	36 pts	4 th Vic	34 pts
5 th ACT	28 pts	6 th SA	27 pts	7 th WA	5 pts		

It is worth noting the Senior Boys effort in the relay, being second Australian Team to finish, within a minute of the first placed Australian state team.

We had three in the honour team (Matt Doyle SB, Patrick Jaffe JB and Asha Steer JG), and 3 in the Australian junior team to compete against NZ (Lanita Steer, Asha Steer and Matt Doyle), plus 2 reserves (Patrick Jaffe and Leisha Maggs).

Consistent performances were achieved by newcomers to the team (and first generation orienteers) Leisha Maggs, Lachlan Cherry and Sequoia Weightman, who found all their controls in good time. All team members showed improvement.

Recommendations

1. Call for volunteers for the junior support crew for 2013, and nominate a coordinator.
2. Develop a position description for Victorian Junior Development Coach.
3. Seek or allocate funding for a Victorian Junior Development Coach.
4. Invite applications for the position of Victorian Junior Development Coach, as either a voluntary or paid position.
5. Appoint the position of Victorian Junior Development Coach.
6. Give consideration to more equitable and more strategic ways to use some or all of the funds raised by the Junior Squad Catering, for example to assist with underwriting training activities.
7. Seek to fill by direct invitation the position of Victorian Secondary Schools Team Coach for 2013.

Enquiries to: markhennessy@bigpond.com Mobile 0419 559 129