Urban Orienteering Subcommittee Report – December 2013

Orienteering Victoria Board Meeting

OVERALL STATUS	Business as usual – plus requests under item 1

ACTIVITIES & PLANS

1.   Sprint Into Spring series

The series was very successful, with 780 participations, 270 individuals, 56 of whom did 6 or more events. There was an average 98 participants per event. The final weekend at Ballarat went smoothly and was well received. Money has been disbursed to clubs, following the small profit made after all expenses were paid. Grant expenditure for 2013 was slightly over target (approx $400) – however, this comprises some 2014 expenditure brought forward. Orienteering Victoria has received levies of $1624.

REQUEST: Could the Board please approve making the 2013 Sprint into Spring levies received by OV available for the development of the series, to be utilised to supplement the 2014 mapping program. This will pay for an extra new map. Our aim is to eventually have enough sprint standard maps to rotate them every 2-3 years, which will support the series continuing when it moves out of the grant funding phase.

The objectives of the project were met, with a good mix of senior and junior high performance athletes using the series for invaluable competition; park and street orienteers developing their skills; and newcomers enjoying the events as well. The jerseys were a great success and looked fantastic at the award ceremony.

Project officer Shane Mallia has written a separate project report which is attached. Shane did an excellent job and will be re-engaged for 2014 subject to his availability.

The series would not have been such a success without the hard work and dedication shown by the technical team of Ted van Geldermalsen, Geoff Adams, Warwick Davis, and Ian Dodd. Together they ensured that all the races were of a consistent high quality. The UOC would also like to acknowledge the effort and support provided by clubs in setting the courses and running the events.

2014 – planning is already underway with the organising team beginning the process of map selection, and documenting improvements for organisation. The program will follow the 2013 model with a final weekend in Geelong, leading into the Victorian Sprint Championships.

The UOC would like to note that the new 2014 Bush Orienteering brochure incorrectly shows the 2014 Sprint Into Spring events being on Sundays. The information provided by us clearly stated that events would be on Saturdays, and we deliberately did not attach dates, as these have not been finalised.   We were not given an opportunity to check the brochure before it was printed. We consider that if left in circulation in its current format, the 2014 Bush Orienteering brochure will create considerable promotion problems for UOC.

Request: We understand that the brochure contains other errors and omissions, and request that any further distribution (eg at park-street events) cease until a corrected brochure is produced.

2. PAS Summer Series 2013/14
    We are now 8 weeks into the summer series. Numbers have been a little reduced by persistent wet weather. An attendance breakdown will be given with the next report, at the halfway point. Post-event catering has been very well received.

    Casey-Kingston Series – the new park and street website has a dedicated page for the Casey-Kingston series (www.parkstreeo.com.au/monday), and a flyer is ready for distribution.

    Park and Street Championships – flyers promoting the 2014 qualifiers and finals are available at events.

    End of year presentations – will now incorporate the Millennium Club awards, as well as the Champs awards and other end of season awards. There will be no separate Millennium Club dinner.

    Course setter of the year – nominations have been called for.

    Resident complaint - Glenhuntly Gallop event, November 25 – a Caulfield resident was driving his truck home when he alleged two competitors crossed the road in front of him, causing him to brake hard. He also observed a group of young scouts behaving in an unruly manner in his street (where a control had been placed). He rang the event organiser and registered a complaint.

    Ian Dodd contacted the resident on two occasions, first to ascertain the details of the incident, and then again to advise the complainant of the steps that had been taken, which were to emphasise to all competitors that they need to behave safely, follow road rules, and not cross out of bounds areas such as railway lines. Ian managed to dissuade the complainant from taking the matter further, and the UOC would like to thank him for his efforts. An incident report has been sent to Peta Whitford.

    Posters outlining participant responsibilities have been prepared and displayed at events and briefings have stressed these important safety reminders.

3. UOC meeting
    The UOC held a meeting on December 6.
    Finances: no change to entry fees in 2014, but will review in light of any new membership structure for 2015. Payments for winter and season tickets are being made to clubs and OV.

    Winter series restructure:

    1) Wednesday night series -
    Wednesday winter series will now be 2 x15 weeks with 8 events per series counting for final results. This will reduce the number of non-scoring events and provide a better outcome for overall results.

    2) Saturday series -
    As a trial the next Saturday series will comprise of 2 running classes and 1 PW course.
    A course to be 60 min score. New B Course to be 45 mins score (combining old B & C courses). PW course to be 65mins

    Membership restructure: an outline of the proposed combination of club and OV membership into a single transaction, was discussed.

Fixturing: the map chart used for fixturing will be updated prior to the January fixture meeting, coordinated by Ian Stirling, with input from clubs. This will provide more diversity in map selection.

Course Setting guidelines: These will be refreshed for all series in order to make the instructions easier to understand.

ISSUES, CONCERNS AND RISKS

Nil.

Margi Freemantle & Debbie Dodd
Co-Chairs of Urban Orienteering Committee