SI SUBCOMMITTEE Report – April 2016

Orienteering Victoria Board/Council Meeting

OVERALL STATUS	*Consideration of Board position on SI gear owned by OV*

ACTIVITIES & PLANS

1.   New equipment purchased

I have purchased another PC for OV to update gear and options available. It is a HP Pavilion X2 convertible with a 10.1 inch touch screen. The cost was $423 (on sale at JB HiFi).
It can be used as a tablet in *O-Lynx Touch* entry mode or as a normal notebook. This will help relieve queues at MelBushO (when everyone arrives early) by providing two touch screens to process entries. Being a modern unit, it should also run for a complete event without external power. I will test the battery at the next event but it should last 7+ hours as long as the screen is not at full brightness.

2.   Reducing the tasks of looking after OV SI gear

As you may recall I am tired of trying to manage all the collected OV gear. Every time I inspect the equipment something is in need of repair. All the tubs that housed gear in the trailer have been broken (again). This gives rise to the question of does OV have to own SI gear at all? It gets damaged in part because-
- it is never packed in the trailer properly
- users don't look after stuff they don't feel they own
- after an event there is a tendency to throw everything (literally sometimes) in the trailer and forget it

The facts are that the gear needed for an event is constantly changing with new electronic products, e.g. new PCs now have sufficient internal batteries to run without external power/constant recharging.

Additionally, all major clubs (except MFR) now own a fair bit of the SI gear necessary to run most events. Some of the old OV gear is nearing its end-of-life (e.g. the big battery). The big SLA Deep Cycle battery is not only old but way too heavy for one person to carry safely. Finally, as mentioned above, the OV trailer is unsuitable to transport electronics and unnecessary (too big) for the SI gear required for the majority of events. You can run a state series with one PC and a splits printer.

A further issue is that the provision of results is an ongoing debate and probably varies from event to event. Of the options below, no one way is "the best" for every event. So should OV be prescribing a solution or leaving it to clubs to decide?

- Print results on A4 and hang on clothesline or scoreboard (oldest electronic system).
- Have competitors write up their own times and place on magnetic board (MTBO system).
- Print times on sticky labels and have competitors put them up on hanging boards (interstate/schools systems).
- Print results on splits paper and display on magnetic board. Supplement by loading to internet during or immediately after event (my preference).
- Use TV displays (ARDF / EU / Jim Russell's service).
- Provide wifi/internet options so competitors can read results on their smart phones

So it is time to review what gear OV will own and make available for club use. My proposal is that OV only own the bare minimum needed to:
1. run Schools competitions
2. provide gear that effectively must be shared between clubs, specifically *O-Lynx Touch* entry system and its associated database of SI sticks and their owners (called an 'Archive')
3. supplement club supplies in order to run carnivals
4. provides the very bare minimum to run events for clubs with no gear i.e. splits prints but no results system

I also think that 4. above should be on the basis that in the future all clubs should aim to be self-sufficient by either buying gear or making permanent arrangements to use gear borrowed from another club(s).

Specifically, I propose to the Board that OV will only own the following going forward-
- Two sets of start finish units ("Admin" controls)
- 100 Field Controls
- Two PCs (OV5 and OV6) [including the *O-Lynx Touch* entry system and the *OVArchive*]
- One splits printer

All of this can be located at my place for the immediate future. Note that all rural clubs now have their own SI gear.

I believe that, based on past bookings, this is sufficient for-
- Schools events
- the minimum requirements to run any one event (up to Championships level) *providing* a power supply for the splits printer is organised (240v or generator or borrow from a club e.g. NEV Li-ion battery)
- providing the O-Lynx Touch system needed to run EOD events with high entry numbers (e.g. MelBushO)
- providing an additional supply of 100 field controls for major events. Note that the clubs (excluding ARDF and AWOC) now own approx 250 field controls between them which should be enough (with OV units) to run a three-day event without using any control on more than one day.
- allowing 2 separate starts to be run at any major event (more with club gear)

All other OV gear should be auctioned to clubs or otherwise disposed off (tossed if no one wants it). Canny purchases of unwanted gear by clubs will see most of the major clubs join BG, DR and EU as fully self-sufficient going forward.

The trailer is now effectively redundant, at least for carrying SI gear (might be useful for carrying stands).

As always, a complete up-to-date record of gear can be found on the OV website:
http://www.vicorienteering.asn.au/admin/organising/si_bookings/
This includes the details of what might be for sale and who is interested in buying it.

ISSUES, CONCERNS AND RISKS

Recommendation(s) for any decisions needed

That the Board approve the direction outlined above and agree to the auction of unneeded gear, subject to any OV Council approvals required.

Ian Dodd
SI Coordinator
11/04/16