

## **OA DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2006-09-27**

### **Orienteering Tasmania Inc.**

#### **Brief report on agenda items**

##### **1. Corporate Orienteering**

Orienteering Tasmania has two aspects to report on the involvement of corporate representatives in orienteering:

###### **1.1 The Corporate Challenge orienteering series.**

This is a specifically “targeted” orienteering program run in Hobart involving autumn and spring series of four events each. It is a competition between teams that represent corporate groups such as private businesses and government departments. Now in its fifth year, it has proved highly successful both in itself, and as a way of encouraging newcomers into club orienteering. There are two courses and controls are left in place for lunch time and after work sessions. Members of each team can compete on either course or at either session. We have had up to 50 teams competing.

A feature of the program has been a handicap system which allocates points on what could be considered a “random” basis. So while there is the usual intense competition between individuals on an elapsed time basis, a team of three older office ladies has as much chance of winning on points as a team of athletic young “jocks”.

The success of the program has been due in part to excellent organisation and promotion (through Peter Hall), and to the spread of experienced orienteers through various Hobart based businesses and departments. These orienteers have often taken the initiative in getting teams together to participate.

###### **1.2 Special Corporate “exercises”.**

From time to time Orienteering Tasmania receives a request from a corporate or conference group for an orienteering “exercise” either as a physical activity for the group, or as a more structured team-building exercise.

Bert Elson has conducted several such events, mainly as “in-house” activities for Government departments. These activities have been costed mainly around map costs and “event” fees

More recently OT (through EVOC in Launceston) responded to a request to run an orienteering-based team building exercise as part of a workshop for middle management personnel with a major company. The invitation came through the hotel that was hosting their conference. The exercise was organised and run by John & Valerie Brammall, and used a framework not dissimilar in its basic approach to that used by Peta Whitford (VOA) over recent years.

The exercise was fully costed and charged at \$550 for 15 participants. Costing included organisational and planning time (at \$20 per hour), time on the day (at \$15 per hour per person), equipment hire, map costs, and refreshments. The cost was accepted by the company without question. Client feedback forms were used, and indicated a high level of satisfaction by the participants. Any lower

ratings tended to relate to lack of prior communication with the company organisers (the exercise was arranged on a weeks' notice).

The monies from the exercise will be split between the club, OT, and the organisers. The issue of payment of organisers is currently under discussion within clubs and OT.

The hotel involved has requested a one-page brochure advertising the availability of orienteering exercised for various purposes. This is currently being prepared, and will include (probably) three tiers of exercises: a straight forward small orienteering event; an exercise that embodies team-based orienteering; and an exercise that is fully planned as a team-building activity, developed through consultation with the company involved (and involving club members with appropriate professional experience). Once developed it is intended to distribute the brochure to other hotels that host conferences and workshops.

## **2. Schools Orienteering**

The following programs currently operate in Tasmania

**2.1 Secondary schools orienteering, Hobart.** This is run as two series of after school, twilight meetings – one at the beginning of the school year, the other towards the end. Organisation is coordinated through OT, but much of the event organisation is undertaken by orienteers associated with the schools that participate. Generally for a school to have become involved there has been an interested (orienteering) teacher on the staff. Events are also open to orienteers in general. Participation is up to 150 each week.

**2.2 Twilight events, Launceston.** These follow the same calendar as the above, but are organised as club twilight events to which school groups are welcome. Only one or two schools (primary or secondary) tend to participate. Commencing last year, the end of year series was organised in such a way that selected students from the main participating school take on the course planning (with help from their teacher and a club controller), and club members set up the event.

**2.3 Primary School Sports, Launceston.** The local club will be running a 10 week program for primary schools in and around Launceston during term 2 this year. It will be the third time in four years that the program has run. Events are held on a Friday afternoon during school hours.

Funding for the program is provided through the local Primary Schools Sports Association. Club members plan the events (which can be recycled year and year about), and provide master maps to the participating schools/teachers who are responsible for copying the maps and allocating children to appropriate courses. Teachers are responsible for their students on the day. Orienteers put out controls, provide instruction where needed, and collect controls. In the past, between 100 and 250 children have participated on any one day. Numbers are likely to be lighter this year as the club has requested that children attend right through the 10 weeks. In the past, schools have tended to 'roll over' groups of children across several sports, changing every three weeks.

The basic aims of this program are to provide the children with an enjoyable introduction to 'proper' orienteering, and to help the children develop some of the basic skills of the sport.