

OA Tech Newsletter

Edition 1/2006

This edition starts with an apology for being behind schedule with the production of this newsletter – and also for not chasing up the same number of contributors as last year. Work commitments have got the better of me over the last few months, but I intend to be back on schedule with the July edition.

In this edition I have included a draft spreadsheet for specifying winning times and estimating course lengths for a range of different events (see the article on page 3). It struck me in preparing this spreadsheet that there are a number of classes which run very similar course lengths, and in many cases will run the same actual course. Yet, tradition prevents us from merging these classes.

The reason we don't merge classes is that it is assumed that people like to have an opportunity to win their age class – but personally I would prefer to be competing against a larger number of people than winning in a class of 3. The experiment this year which saw 18 and 20 classes merged into 17–20E was initially met with mixed reactions, but the primary feedback I received was that those people like to run in a large class and compete against more people. Does the same apply for W21AS and W35AS? Or maybe M75A and M80A? Is there room to cut down the number of classes (and reduce the administrative load)? Or would this create a competitor backlash and a reduction in numbers? Opinions invited for the next edition. . .

In This Edition . . .

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3 **Closing date for next issue:**

1st July 2006

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Controller Accreditation

The Level 3 Controller Accreditation course held in Hobart last year was very well atten-

ded, and produced a lot of positive comments. My thanks to those who contributed material: Kathy Liley, Katy & Dave Stubbs, Bob Mouatt, Geoff Adams, Tim McIntyre, Eric

Andrews, Noel Schoknecht and Grant Bluett. Material has been posted on the OA website in the 'technical' section of the site. The next workshop is planned for 2007.

The other major change to controller accreditation recently is that Neville Bleakely no longer works for OA. Grant Bluett, as OA Head Coach, will be taking care of the ad-

ministration of controller accreditation documents. Grant is still settling into his position, so there may be some delay in processing documents which were submitted recently – please bear with us while Grant acquaints himself with the system.

— Andy Hogg

Mapping News

Mapping workshop

A mapping workshop was conducted by Eric Andrews during the 2005 East Coast Escape Carnival in Tasmania. 8 mappers attended. I wish to express my thanks to Eric for initiating this idea and running a successful workshop. Eric has also offer to more mapping workshops in the future.

11th International Conference on Orienteering Mapping

An international mapping meeting was held in conjunction with WOC 2005 in Japan. A number of presentations were made, including:

- Limitations of universal symbols
- Airborne laser scanning
- Mapping standards of different orienteering disciplines and formats
- WOC Mapping with GPS (Hatori Kazushige JAP, WOC2005 mapper)
- It's a Wide World: Reflections on IS(S)OM from a Non-European Perspective (Rob Plowright AUS, WOC2005 mapper)
- PrintTech Project of IOF MC

Copies of the presentations can be downloaded at lazarus.elte.hu/mc/11icom/11icom.htm

A few brief observations:

- Digital printing is getting better, however colour control and map quality are

still major issues for major events (and to a lesser extent also offset printed maps). Technology is improving, and it is likely that one day all maps will be digitally printed. The role and procedures for the Mapping Committee to maintain quality control on these group A maps will be a major item for discussion at the mapping meeting at the AGM in 2006.

- GPS mapping has a role, and is likely to become more attractive as hardware improves and new GPS satellite systems supply accurate information without the need for a differential signal.
- OCAD 9 has an improved GPS capability
- Craig Feuerherdt and Neil Barr have written an informative and thought-provoking article in the March 2006 issue of the Australian Orienteer investigating and assessing the use of GPS and other new spatial datasets in mapping, and underlining the current and future need for orienteering to simplify and cut the costs of map production.

Future items

The OA mapping committee needs to investigate further the use of new technologies to cut the cost and reduce the reliance on specialist expertise in making high-quality orienteering maps.

— Noel Schoknecht
Chair,
OA Mapping Committee

Access All Areas

Last edition I asked states for information as to the extent of the problem accessing areas which are considered environmentally sensitive. I received replies from Blair Trewin (VOA), Eoin Rothery (OAWA), Adrian Uppill (OASA) and Anthony Scott (OACT). Below is my interpretation of their replies.

Victoria

The land access issue has not been a major problem in Victoria. This has been achieved partly through a pro-active approach to the consultation process on state forest environmental management plans and draft management plans for National Parks (even those which are not currently being used for orienteering!). They pay no fees for use of state forests or national parks.

Western Australia

OAWA has taken a proactive approach in the past, with two studies into the effect of orienteering on the environment. In 1986 Dr Tony Friend and Anna Napier published "Monitoring Vegetation Damage due to Orienteering" which studied 3 controls at a Julimar event. There were 135 competitor visits to the controls and only 6 broken twigs were found in an area of 200 square metres around. In 1987, Warren Tacey and Sue Moore published the "Mt Yetar Lichen Study", to particularly look at lichen-covered granite outcrops. Two 20 square metre areas near a control were studied before and after an orienteering event, with an average of 0.6% of the area logged as *disturbed* after the event. There are plans to conduct new impact studies in the near future, in response to recent negotiations with the De-

partment of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) who manage many of OAWAs best orienteering areas.

South Australia

The situation in South Australia is the most difficult. National Parks do not allow orienteering in Conservation 1 Zones once these areas are identified and formalised by management plans eg 100% of Kaiserstuhl (draft), 100% of Mark Oliphant, 24% of Belair National Park, etc. Furthermore, Forestry SA have decided (without consultation with OASA/Clubs) that all native forest areas are out of bounds to orienteering. These decisions appear to be made on the premise that orienteering must be bad for the environment, with very little scientific evidence.

ACT

ACT has generally had a good relationship with National Parks. But a recent draft management plan for Namadgi revealed plans which would arbitrarily limit the size and number of events, possibly with orienteering competing with rogaining and mountain running for events. Furthermore, several statements are used to imply that walking and running through the bush creates environmental damage, although there is no evidence to support this assumption.

The above information was presented to the OA Annual Conference in December. Now that we have diagnosed the extent of the problem, Council has now asked the Technical Committee to undertake a complete review of material available regarding the environmental impact of orienteering, and to make this material available to states.

— Andy Hogg

Winning Times

Adrian Uppill asked a question at the 2005 technical committee meeting at last Easter regarding a simple specification of winning times for different classes in different events.

Over the last while I've been working on a spreadsheet which summarises the rules as they apply to different events. I've appended a draft of this spreadsheet to the end of this newsletter. It quickly ballooned into being a complicated document — as well as specify-

ing winning time, I've included course length (as a percentage of the longest course) for each class. These estimates are based on data provided by Bob Allison, Andrew Blakers and the IOF (although the final value used is not included in the printed table).

I'm providing this information here because

I would like feedback on this spreadsheet before making it official policy. Is it too complicated? Do the course lengths make sense compared to recent events? Should we be including more information?

— Andy Hogg

Soapbox

Orienteering Safety

Further to Anthony Scott's and Jenny Atkinson's items on event safety, I enclose a template for event emergency information which relates to Jenny's safety improvement suggestions 7 and 8. (The template is appended as page 5 of this newsletter.)

I was organiser for an MTBO event a couple of years ago and when a rider had a bad fall it was necessary to get her to the closest treatment (not a bad enough injury to warrant calling an ambulance). Living close by I knew where that 24 hour treatment centre was. But it struck me that event organisers and controllers often do not have such information. Nor other useful info – for example many mobile phone users do not know they can dial emergency services if outside their own provider's signal yet getting another provider's signal (000 except on GSM mobiles dial 112).

Although the template info is rarely required it is essential to have immediate access to it. The same template can often be used for multiple adjacent maps. For example, the attached template is relevant to three of this club's maps and also to maps of other clubs.

There are two issues still to face.

1. Getting it completed by the event organiser. Club's have to take a stand on this and controller should also check.
2. Having it readily available. We place it in a waterproof red folder that is hung up in the registration tent towards the front. That seems an accessible and visible place.

Is it worth it? Well it really doesn't take much time if templates are set up for each

grouping of maps that the club uses.

And at the very first event in which the system was in place, an orienteer broke some bones in a fall. I was organiser and was up at the start but other officials knew where the info was and used it.

— Ken Dowling
VOA

Start Triangles

Is it possible to clarify the role of the start triangle in Australia? I had the experience at the Welsh 6-Days last year of having a first leg on one day where the shortest route was not to go to the start triangle at all but to set off in a completely different direction towards the control. Of course I, having been trained in Oz, went to the start triangle first . . .

I had a bit of correspondence with the BOF about this and they assured me that there was no necessity to visit the start triangle in the UK and that in fact the rules in Australia did not require this either. In their correspondence, BOF told me: "The IOF Rules state :

- If necessary there shall be a marked route from the timed start to where orienteering begins.
- The point where orienteering begins shall be shown on the map with a start triangle and on the ground and marked in the terrain by a control flag but no marking device.
- Elsewhere it states that competitors must follow a route marked on the map for its entire length, although of course this would never be the case before the start triangle."

I therefore found it of great interest that at the last day of the Scottish 6 days this year the

starter announced that participants did have to visit the start triangle. . .

— Jenny Hawkins
OACT

Editor's Note:

From a technical viewpoint, I agree with BOF that the only rules which mention the start triangle are those quoted above (see OA Rules 22.5 & 22.7).

Note that it doesn't say you have to pass through the start triangle, so perhaps this is what the BOF officials meant. However, in every event I've been involved in it has either been assumed or stated that you must visit the

start triangle. In other words, the route to the start triangle is a compulsory route:

17.3 *Compulsory routes, crossing points and passages shall be marked clearly on the map and on the ground. Competitors shall follow the entire length of any marked section of their course.*

Now, the run to the start is not usually marked on the map, since one hasn't started orienteering then. So, I agree that you have found a grey area in the rules. I would appreciate other opinions on this issue. In the meantime, if one is organising an event it should be made clear through instructions at the start and in the program that competitors need to follow the marked route to the start.

update highlighted text for this event

Daylesford area Emergency Information

Static data applies to these maps: Tipperary Springs, The Blowhole, Butterfly Gully, Charlesford Diggings, Rodoni variations, Jim Crow.

First Aid

Designated 1st aiders are Dr **Mike Maher** (Parking & early run) and **Kathryn Barker** (Registration & late run).

Search and Emergency Management

Ken Dowling, Event Organiser. Tel 0410 481 677.

This location is

On Basalt Rd, 7 km from Midland Highway. At junction to Henderson's Spring, bottom of steep dip.

Eganstown 1:25,000 map 7723-34. Grid Ref 55H, 2 42 612E, 58 67 960N. WGS84.

Nearest mobile signal

Go S on Basalt Rd (the way you came in) until clear of forest.

SERVICE	LOCATION	PHONE	COMMENT
CRITICAL			
Ambulance, Police, Fire		000	landline, CDMA mobile
Ambulance, Police, Fire		112	GSM mobile
SERIOUS			
Hospital emergency	Daylesford	5348 2371	they know of event
Police	Daylesford	5348 2342	they know of event
CFA (emergency only)	Daylesford	5348 2333	they know of event
CFA (other business)	Daylesford	5348 2404	they know of event
EVENT PHONES			
	Ken Dowling	0410 481 677	(if in range)
	Terry Haebich	0417 348 768	(if in range)

Emergency Kit

Stretcher, rescue gear, first aid & 4 x search party bags are in Kevin's O Shop van or trailer.

Medical treatment location directions

Daylesford Hospital Emergency Room.

Go to Daylesford via Midland Highway.

L at roundabout into Vincent St.

3rd R into Hospital St.

Emergency entrance on L at top of first hill.

Winning Times & Course Length Estimator: National Events

	Tech. Diff.	Aus LD Champs		Aus MD Champs		Aus Sprint Champs		Aus Relay Champs		Australian Easter 3-Days									
		WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	Prologue		Day 1		Day 2		Day 3			
Elite Classes		WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)
W17-20E	H	55	41	35	77	15	77	105	53	12	77	25	56	50	42	35	53		
W21E	H	70	60	35	77	15	77	120	68	12	77	30	77	60	58	40	71		
M17-20E	H	70	71	35	100	15	100	120	81	12	100	25	76	65	74	40	81		
M21E	H	90	100	35	100	15	100	135	100	12	100	30	100	80	100	45	100		
										Days 1-3		Notes							
A Classes		WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)								
W10A	VE	20	2km	15	1.5km	12	1km			16	1.6km	This table is designed as a guide for course-setters to assist determining the relative length of courses. All courses which are 'Hard' (H) technical difficulty have winning times (WT) specified in minutes (as per the OA Rules). In addition, approximate lengths (D(%)) as a percentage of the longest course (yellow cells) are specified -- this length is calculated from historical data of the relative speeds of different age groups. In terrain where the speed varies significantly, this must be taken into account. Courses of 'Moderate' (M) technical difficulty are shaded orange. The winning times of M/W14A are specified by the OA Rules, and percentage distance is calculated as for H courses. Note that care should be taken in applying these estimates when terrain speed is variable. Courses of 'Easy' (E) technical difficulty are shaded green, and distances given in km. Courses of 'Very Easy' (VE) technical difficulty are shaded blue, and distances given in km.							
W12A	E	25	3km	20	2km	12	1km	60	3km	20	2.5km								
W14A	M	30	17	25	36	12	40			24	22								
W16A	H	40	29	25	47	12	52	90	44	32	39								
W17-20A	H	50	36	25	46	15	64			40	47								
W21A	H	60	47	35	70	15	70			45	58								
W35A	H	60	43	35	65	15	65	120	57	48	57								
W40A	H	60	39	35	59	15	59			48	53								
W45A	H	60	38	30	49	12	46	120	51	48	51								
W50A	H	55	31	30	44	12	41			44	42								
W55A	H	50	26	30	40	12	38	105	37	40	35								
W60A	H	50	21	30	33	12	31			40	29								
W65A	H	50	17	30	26	12	24			40	22								
W70A	H	50	15	30	23	12	21			40	20								
W75A	H	50	14	30	21	12	20			40	19								
W80A	H	50	13	30	19	12	18			40	17								
M10A	VE	20	2km	15	1.5km	12	1km			16	2km								
M12A	E	30	3km	20	2km	12	1km	60	3km	24	3km								
M14A	M	40	27	25	43	12	48			32	36								
M16A	H	50	43	25	55	12	62	105	60	40	57								
M17-20A	H	60	56	25	60	15	83			45	69								
M21A	H	75	75	35	90	15	90			60	100								
M35A	H	70	70	35	90	15	90	135	90	56	93								
M40A	H	65	59	35	81	15	81			52	78								
M45A	H	60	52	30	67	12	63	120	70	48	70								
M50A	H	55	45	30	63	12	59			44	60								
M55A	H	50	39	30	60	12	56	105	54	40	52								
M60A	H	50	35	30	54	12	50			40	47								
M65A	H	50	32	30	49	12	46			40	43								
M70A	H	50	29	30	45	12	42			40	39								
M75A	H	50	25	30	38	12	35			40	33								
M80A	H	50	18	30	28	12	26			40	24								
AS Classes		WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)								
W18AS	H		18								24	AS classes are specified only in terms of the percentage of the longest course. This is specified to be 50% of the length of the relevant A class. For that reason, winning times are not specified. B classes are specified to be 30-40% of the length of the relevant A class for LD Events.							
W21AS	H		23						34		29								
W35AS	H		22								29								
W45AS	H		19								25								
W55AS	H		13								17								
M18AS	H		28								35								
M21AS	H		38						50		50								
M35AS	H		35								47								
M45AS	H		26								35								
M55AS	H		19								26								
B Classes		WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)								
W14B	E		3km		2km						3km	The Australian 3-Days shows the elite winning times for each day -- these differ on every day. Therefore, other courses are specified as a percentage of the longest course (which is M21A).							
W18B	M		14		36						17								
W21B	M		21		43				23.9		20								
W35B	M		15		43						20								
W45B	M		13		36						18								
M14B	E		3km		2km						3km	In the Australian Relay Champs, winning times are given for the total time of the winning team.							
M18B	M		25		43						24								
M21B	M		35		43				35		35								
M35B	M		25		43						33								
M45B	M		18		43						24								

Winning Times & Course Length Estimator: State Events

	Tech. Diff.	State LD Champs		State MD Champs		State Sprint Champs		Badge Event (LD)		Notes:
		WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	
A Classes										This table is designed as a guide for course-setters to assist determining the relative length of courses. All courses which are 'Hard' (H) technical difficulty have winning times (WT) specified in minutes (as per the OA Rules). In addition, approximate lengths (D(%)) as a percentage of the longest course (yellow cells) are specified -- this length is calculated from historical data of the relative speeds of different age groups. In terrain where the speed varies significantly, this must be taken into account. Courses of 'Moderate' (M) technical difficulty are shaded orange. The winning times of M/W14A are specified by the OA Rules, and percentage distance is calculated as for H courses. Note that care should be taken in applying these estimates when terrain speed is variable. Courses of 'Easy' (E) technical difficulty are shaded green, and distances given in km. Courses of 'Very Easy' (VE) technical difficulty are shaded blue, and distances given in km.
W10A	VE	20	2km	15	1.5km	10	1km	20	1.6km	
W12A	E	25	3km	20	2km	10	1km	25	2.5km	
W14A	M	30	18	25	36	12	40	30	20	
W16A	H	40	31	25	47	12	52	40	35	
W17-20A	H	50	40	25	49	15	68	50	45	
W21A	H	65	59	35	77	15	77	60	62	
W35A	H	60	46					60	52	
W40A	H	60	42	35	59	15	59	60	47	
W45A	H	60	40					60	46	
W50A	H	55	33	35	51	15	51	55	38	
W55A	H	50	28					50	31	
W60A	H	50	23	30	33	12	31	45	23	
W65A	H	50	18					45	18	
W70A	H	50	16	30	23	12	21	45	16	
W75A	H	50	15					45	15	
W80A	H	50	13					45	14	
M10A	VE	20	2km	15	1.5km	10	1km	20	2km	
M12A	E	30	3km	20	2km	10	1km	30	3km	
M14A	M	40	28	25	43	12	48	40	32	
M16A	H	50	45	25	55	12	62	50	51	
M17-20A	H	60	64	25	65	15	91	60	73	
M21A	H	85	100	35	100	15	100	75	100	
M35A	H	70	74					70	84	
M40A	H	65	62	35	81	15	81	65	70	
M45A	H	60	56					60	63	
M50A	H	55	48	35	74	15	74	55	54	
M55A	H	50	41					50	47	
M60A	H	50	37	30	54	12	50	45	38	
M65A	H	50	34					45	34	
M70A	H	50	31	30	45	12	42	45	32	
M75A	H	50	26					45	27	
M80A	H	50	19					45	20	
AS Classes		WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	
W21AS	H		29						31	
W45+AS	H		20						23	
M21AS	H		50						50	
M45+AS	H		28						31	
B Classes		WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	WT	D(%)	
W14B	E		3km		2km				3km	
W21B	M		10		36				22	
W45+B	M		14						16	
M14B	E		3km		2km				3km	
M21B	M		35		43				35	
M45+B	M		19						22	