

SAOF development report 2012

Introduction:

As VP development I took over in 2012 from Garry Morrison who moved up to President. Garry had done most of the ground work in establishing the aspirations of the SAOF development in the development plan, <http://www.orienteering.co.za/development/development-plan/>, as well as set in motion the people and projects to begin to implement it. The objectives as developed during the formulation of the LTPD model were in the 3 to 5 year timescale with priorities to

- Active Orienteering clubs in 5 provinces (currently we are active in two provinces)
- Improve Participation Levels across all demographics

It was therefore my position to keep the plans moving and adapting to meet the aspirations set out in the expansion plan. It was a year of much activity. 2013 will see a new VP development as I am no longer in a position to stand, having moved to Houston, Texas. At the time of writing it was reassuring that there has been a nomination for a Cape based person to potentially take over the position and strengthen the expansion activities in the western Cape.

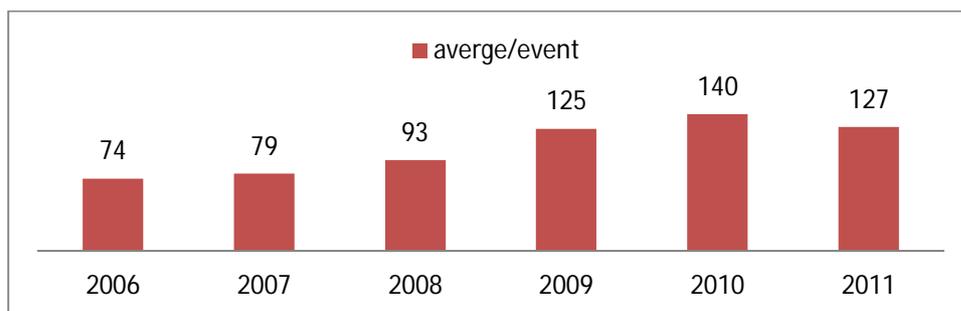
The success this year has in most part been due to the opportunity to create short term projects with remuneration for the implementers thereof. The efforts of the paid project manager and her continuous efforts are discussed below. Efforts in Kwazulu Natal by the Hemer family have shown success with the start for Durban orienteering club, DOC and the successful presentation of a number of events throughout the year that have been focussed on schools. The long term aspiration being to start a self-sustaining schools league.

SAOF is always open to suggestions for the development and expansion of the sport and will from time to time be in a position to provide financial support for ideas presented to them. It must be considered that a paid development project manager in each region where we seek expansion would in all likelihood be the fastest way of meeting the expansion aspirations. This has a risk that should the funding no longer be available, all efforts will stop, and the investment will potentially be fruitless. It also has the risk of undermining the volunteer mindset that essentially underpins orienteering (and most other sports) currently.

The report is split into the sections as per the SAOF website development section <http://www.orienteering.co.za/development/>

YOC – Youth Orienteering Challenge.

There has not been much change in the Gauteng implemented YOC program. The numbers and report are available <http://www.orienteering.co.za/development/young-orientees/>. The impact of YOC on the numbers of orienteers was reported in the 2011 report and cannot be understated. 25% of current orienteers are participating in the YOC program in the Gauteng sprint season, and the average feet per event took an equivalent step change increase with the introduction of YOC in 2009.



Attempts to implement the system in the Western Cape, the only other area with sufficient events to support the requirements have not yet been successful <http://www.orienteering.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/YOC2011feedbacksc.pdf>. 2012 may be different with the active implementation of a schools league in the short course series.

Schools leagues.

Gauteng schools league received a lot of support (financial and other) in attempts to create a system that does not need the assistance of a large number of volunteers to run the series. The aspiration is to create a system that can be exported to other regions where there is potential to run a schools league. The creation of a development trailer which contains all the equipment necessary to host an event was the major outcome. This trailer is available to anybody that would need it and is subject to the normal emit hire rates. It has been subsequently used for a couple of non-league events.

Gauteng schools league:

Schools League page on the SAOF website in an attempt to make more information available to parents and scholars. –



<http://www.orienteering.co.za/development/schoolsleagues/> as well as a facebook page for up to the minute posts. <http://www.facebook.com/OSchoolsLeague?ref=ts> throughout the series.

- First event of the 2012 Schools League – OSL #1: <http://www.orienteering.co.za/2012/02/first-event-of-the-2012-schools-league/>
- More runners at Heron Bridge – OSL #2: <http://www.orienteering.co.za/2012/02/heronbridge-osl-2/>
- A challenging course at Delta Park - OSL #3: <http://www.orienteering.co.za/2012/02/a-challenging-course-at-delta-park-osl-3/>
- Definite progress at last schools league event – OSL #4: <http://www.orienteering.co.za/2012/02/definite-progress-osl-4/>
- Schools League wraps up with a Garden final – FINAL: <http://www.orienteering.co.za/2012/03/schools-league-wraps-up-with-a-garden-final/>

- Annual O camp for school orienteers – CAMP:
<http://www.orienteering.co.za/2012/03/annual-o-camp-for-school-orienteers/>

The final camp acts not only as a 'reward' for the top orienteer's of the league, but also enables the development of coaches the volunteer assistants for the event.

Western Cape included a schools category in the short course series at the beginning of the year. Results are on <http://www.penoc.org.za/>

06 Mar 2012	UCT, Lower Campus
28 Feb 2012	UCT, Upper Campus
21 Feb 2012	Bishopscourt
14 Feb 2012	Wynberg Park, Wynberg
07 Feb 2012	Keurboom Park, Rondebosch

Schools represented include RBHS, ISHB, Clare, PineHigh, Rust, Pinehu

UKZN with DOC, progressed during their first year of existence to have had a series of events during the year that culminated in a final. Represented schools were Hillcrest, Westville, Northlands and Chelsea Prep. <http://doc.wozaonline.co.za/products>

- Highbury Preparatory – Hillcrest – 8th September <http://www.orienteering.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/doc080912.pdf>
- Crawford North Coast – 1st September
- Crawford La Lucia – 21+22 July- <http://orienteering.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/DOC-Schools-Event-Sheet.pdf>, <http://orienteering.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/DOC-Event-Sheet-22july.pdf>
- Crawford La Lucia - 22nd April

Further opportunities?

Pretoria/Midrand/EastRand:

The opportunity to run a schools league in these areas is very strong. There are people that live in the areas, there are maps of the schools that we use for 'normal' orienteering events. And there are sufficient non-school maps that could be used as neutral grounds for a finals. The development trailer can easily be used for these events provided it is not on the same day (Monday) as the current Gauteng Schools League.

There is only a need for a person to drive it, contacting the schools to arrange participation and then coordinating the clubs to update a map and create a course for each event.

Schools resources-

O in a box.

With all the attempts (and successes) in approaching schools throughout the year, there has been a lot learnt in terms of the level of implementation of the sport and the need for curriculum and content and equipment.

This has culminated in a concept of **o-in-a-box**". This is an initiative where a box is provided to the school with all the equipment and lesson plans and instructions for them to put on a 6 week orienteering plan at the school.

http://orienteering.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/OinaBox1_090512.pdf

Currently level 1 has been implemented and rolled out to a number of schools in Gauteng at approximately R500/box. A set of 10 boxes were sent to the Cape for distribution in the expansion activities there. It is not map based, but rather skills based so it can be implemented in schools without a map, and without orienteering experience. Level 2 will expand to include a basic map of the school and then level 3 will be the skills for planning and running a more traditional orienteering event. The long-term aspiration being to establish a schools league in a new area that is run by the participants, and not by imported skills. The goal is to therefore develop the skills in the teachers to host the event as well as to the learners to participate successfully.

A booklet has been created called. **"Making a school map"** as well as one for **"hosting an event"**

Updates are available on the school resource section of the SAOF web site.

<http://www.orienteering.co.za/development/school-resources/>

Teachers training course.

With the introduction of o in a box, the teachers training has taken a more one on one approach.

Mapping new schools

The project manager put together a mapping course for level 1 schools mapping that was presented in February 2012 to 5 volunteers from the ARC as a test run.

There is a Black and White map-making booklet that has been compiled to enable schools (rural) without colour printing and photocopying to make useable maps. It is also a starting point that can graduate to colour ISSOM and ISOM maps.

Maps of the following schools were completed enabling the expansion of schools level orienteering.

Limpopo province -Stanford Lake College (SA champs) – Nicholas Mulder

Polokwane - Mpachue High - Ephraim Chuene,

- Capricorn High - Nico van Hoepen



KwaZuluNatal – Peter Hemer, Dylan Hemer. Crawford La Lucia, Highbury Prep, Crawford North Coast

Gauteng:

Riversands Farm – near the American International School (under query for a map) and Summit college (which is mapped)

Krugersdorp high- Meilin Tan

Charter House – Timothy Chambers (in progress)

Cape have expanded their map library as well but specifics are not available.

Others <<Garry can you add some, I know that there were more paid for.>>

There may have been other schools mapped by the clubs as well. The aspiration of expanding into new provinces is well supported by these mapping activities.

New Clubs and potential new clubs.

It is apparent from the establishment of new clubs this year that the most effective way of expanding orienteering is in actual fact to export existing orienteers to new locations to start a club.

DOC – doc.wozaonline.co.za has been constituted and applied for full membership which was approved. Peter Hemer has been hard at work in the KZN area together with his son who moved to the area. The initial level 1 training course was on 12 November 2011 with a Come and Try it event on the same day. The turn-out was disappointing, but it was a start. A full description of the efforts, contacts and events would not fit into this report. << more is available here>>

- September 2012 is the latest event.

UP has constituted its club (TuksOC) and have applied for associate membership. It is hoped that they will grow to a full member over the next year.

Potch – the Military contacts discussed below have the potential to grow to a new club.

Stanford Lake College – SA champs is being hosted by a school with a strong adventure and outdoor program. Discussions about how best to enable them to participate in the orienteering structures are ongoing amongst those with an opinion. It is possible that an annual event there consisting of a number of events (o-ringen style) could grow to an event hosted solely by the school and the school based club.

Sabie: Maps in the Sabie area represent a real opportunity, however there lacks a local individual willing to drive the process.

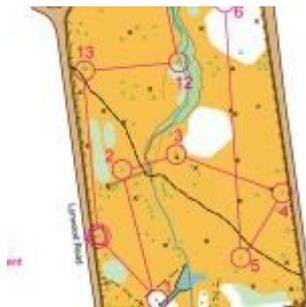
Polokwane/Rustenberg: There have been a number of efforts at making contacts and establishing orienteering in Rustenberg and Polokwane.

Schools in Gauteng. The model of having schools based clubs competing in the schools league is one that is being looked at.

A list of schools with contacts is extensive, and includes ones where we have had meetings and mostly positive interactions. Schools league 2013 may well be oversubscribed.

Permanent courses.

This outcome falls under multiple VP's portfolios, and has been developed in parallel in a number of locations. There have been efforts at the Zoo, Delta park (where there is already a permanent course in place but it is not well utilised). A semi permanent course has been established at



Oriel Park -

SAAO in Cape Town also has successfully implemented a permanent course.

Current in progress opportunities:

Scouting <http://www.scouting.org.za/>

Orienteering in Scouts is an opportunity that has not been well exploited in the past and it remains an untapped opportunity. There is no reason why there shouldn't be an annual orienteering event in each region every year. There are a number of national activities that occur every year that would benefit from an orienteering course.

Cedarburg senior scout adventure - <http://www.scouting.org.za/adventure/> is every 2 years.

PLTU (patrol leaders training unit) <http://www.scouting.org.za/pltu/> has courses in at least 4 provinces with fixed locations that could easily be mapped and used annually–

- Lexton in Pietermaritzburg KwaZulu-Natal,
- Gilten in (jhb) Gauteng at Gilwell Florida (Florida Lake),
- Weston in Pretoria,
- Gilwell in Durban appears to no longer operate,
- Gilqua in Western cape <http://www.scouting.org.za/westerncape/pltu/> and
- Gilcoast in the Eastern Cape.

The ARClub Hennops farm map has been used on a number of occasions for scout run events, as has the delta park map and the JHB zoo. I believe there have been events run by orienteers for scouts. BP Sunday in February is a popular Orienteering event date for scouts and the North West district has had an event on for the last 4 years.

For many years the Western Cape scouts had an annual event at onderpapagaiberg outside Stellenbosch.

Scout orienteering badge.

I was approached by the scout association to compile a scout orienteering badge and some work has gone into this. An initial proposal was compiled and circulated to some key orienteering people for feedback. Based on the feedback the criteria were reworked.

Next step is to compile a report on the process (a kind of justification) and submit it to the scout association for consideration. I do not know their time scales.

Sanjamb 2013

There is a scouting even coming up in 2013 that may provide the opportunity to put on an orienteering event for all the participants of the camp. (approximately 1000 – 5000 depending on the success of the camp). I have preliminarily volunteered to facilitate it, but have not followed it up as I have subsequently relocated. It will require the mapping of the relevant area, once the area has been identified.

<http://www.facebook.com/sanjamb2013?ref=ts>

Currently the event is not certain to be held, and in all likelihood it will be delayed till 2014 or 2015.

Military orienteering

In other developing orienteering nations (like Brazil) the military plays a large part in the implementation of the orienteering activities in the country with logistical support and enabling athletes to train seriously for the sport. SAOF have been approached by a Military Skills team member (reservists) who runs an annual program of orienteering. This provides a great opportunity where there is a pull from the new orienteering community and not a push from the existing orienteering community in to a new area.

Their aspirations however do not fit directly into the current strategy as it has been thought through. The realisation of the opportunity that this provides will therefore require some thought and rework of the existing offerings that SAOF have. This will be the case and there will be a number of courses offered to them to meet their needs.

It is the intention to support these reservist (not SANDF) orienteering activities in the short term as the exact implementation model is determined. Questions like how would they register with and be affiliated with SAOF need to be determined. They are based in Potch and willing to open their events to a wider participation – they specifically mentioned the local university.

This would go a long way to meeting the short term aspirations of the portfolio of addressing both demographic diversity and geographic diversity.

Conclusion.

The year has been very active with some new opportunities presenting themselves, in actuality there are more opportunities than there are people to execute them. It is important therefore to

determine which opportunities best meet the short and long term aspirations of SAOF and pursue them at the expense of the others.

It has been noted that the communication of SAOF with the wider orienteering community could improve. This improved communication could facilitate a growing participation by more orienteers in the development and expansion activities.

The year can be counted as a success, definitely in terms of the orienteering in new provinces. While Pretoria is not strictly a new province. The new club at the university is encouraging. There are many maps of the Pretoria area that would enable the running of another schools league there without the need for any new maps. The missing ingredient is a person to spearhead the effort.

Schools leagues in 3 provinces is great. We will have had orienteering in 5 provinces in 2012.

Limpopo with SA champs

Mpumalanga with the Big 5

Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng with 'regular' orienteering events.

North West province and Free State have some maps that were not used this year

2013 should be just as good a year as 2012, with as much opportunity for expansion.