

South African Orienteering Federation

Annual Report



President's Report

After another eventful year it is instructive to look back at the progress that we have made since the launch of our Long-Term Participant Development (LTPD) model in September 2011. From this I believe we can all derive a great deal of satisfaction for what has been achieved. I also hope that this will fill us with renewed motivation to sustain our efforts into the future.

Our retrospect should begin with a reminder of our vision and strategy that was developed in conjunction with our LTPD model. The SAOF's vision is to make Orienteering a national sport accessible to all South Africans. Our mission statement: *Development Growth Excellence* reflects the belief that in order to grow the sport, development and roll-out of education pathways is required to reduce the inherent *barriers to entry*. With this we also recognise that excellence, which includes being internationally competitive at the highest level, will not be possible without the foundation of development and growth of the sport.

The SAOF's strategy reflects the belief that in order to grow orienteering in South Africa we need to continue to provide education pathways to enable more people to become competent in the making of maps, in the coaching of participants and the in organising of events.

The short-term objectives set as part of the LTPD project are as follows:

Short-term objectives 3-5 years (2014-2016)

- Deliver an Awareness program to educate the SA Orienteering community about LTPD.
- Active Orienteering clubs in 5 provinces (as of 2011 we are active in two provinces)
- Improve participation Levels across all demographics.
- Target World Games Performance Improvement (2013)

Thus far we have probably fallen short of the first objective. However, development efforts in Kwazulu-Natal and recent nascent orienteering activity in Limpopo are cause for encouragement. Whilst club membership and participation at club events has shown slow growth of PDI members, PDI participation at schools league events is growing. As for the World Games, it is important to emphasise that were it not for Michael Crone's first-ever qualification for a WOC final in 2012, SASCOG would not have permitted Orienteering to participate.

These achievements represent good progress towards achieving our short-term goals. What is even more pleasing is the progress that has been made in the development of educational pathways and provision of education opportunities. We have established a formal agreement with British Orienteering to modify their coach education system. Their support has culminated in the qualification of seven Level 2 orienteering coaches and five Level 1 orienteering coaches. At the end of 2012, two Level 1 mapping courses were held and a number of the participants have gone on to make maps. Not to be forgotten is the IOF Event Adviser course, which resulted in the accreditation of two further Event Advisers. It is important to continue with these activities as this will underpin the sustained growth of orienteering in South Africa.

It is important to recognise the contribution of Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) and SASCOG to our efforts. Their leadership in the LTPD and SA Coach Framework projects (SASCOG) and financial support (SRSA) is taking sport in South Africa forward. Our active participation in these

projects, not only makes sense for the development of orienteering, but also strengthens our standing within them. This is crucial if we are to continue to develop and grow.

As a final note, it is important to recognise and acknowledge the contribution of all the volunteers that give life to our sport. From the mappers, to (increasingly) the coaches, the administrators to all active club members who all work tirelessly to present a full calendar of orienteering events, we thank you. Lastly, I would like to convey on behalf of all orienteers thanks to the SAOF's management committee and support personnel for their selfless work.

I look forward to working with you all in 2014 to take Orienteering in South Africa to new heights.

Garry Morrison
President SAOF
September 2013

This annual report was compiled from inputs from the members of the management committee (Richard Lund, Nico van Hoepen, Nicholas de Klerk and Gavin Venter), the high performance manager (Nicholas Mulder) and the YOC coordinator (Tania Wimberley). Full reports for the various portfolios (where available) are available on the SAOF website.

Membership & Participation

Clubs

Although there has been no official increase in the number of Member clubs in 2013, there are two new clubs that have emerged in Limpopo Province. These are the Polokwane Orienteering Club and the Mphachue Orienteering Club. We hope to assist these clubs to become Members in 2014.

The Polokwane Orienteering Club has made a map and hosted an event, so all that remains is for them to adopt a constitution. The Mphachue Club is a school club and as such they can become an Associate Member.

What is most encouraging about these clubs is that they have arisen spontaneously, without any experienced orienteers amongst their number.

Membership

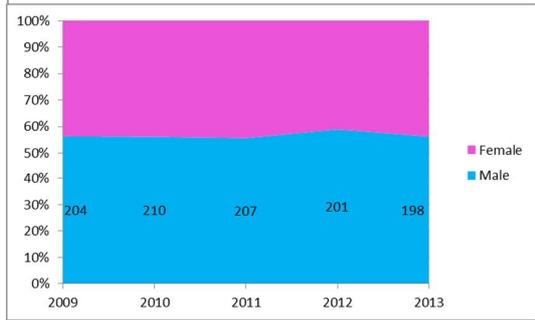
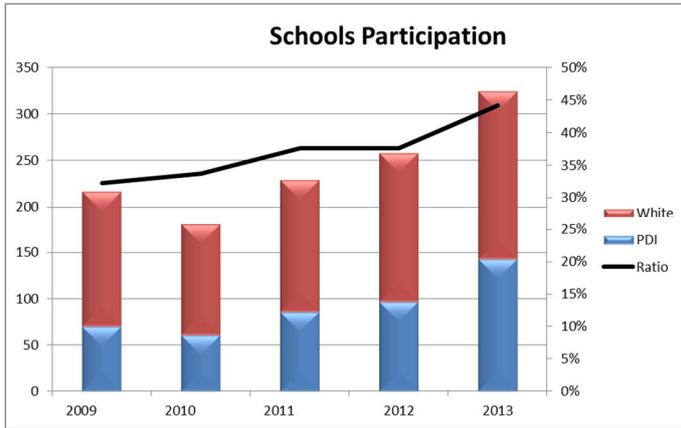
Official individual memberships are marginally up on 2012, as illustrated in the table below. This is one of a number metrics that Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) monitor as a means to evaluate the progress of recognised sports. In order to continue to secure vital funding from SRSA it is imperative that we seek to grow our membership as measured by individual members as well as the number of active clubs.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
SENIOR MEN	154	149	157	149
SENIOR WOMEN	114	114	96	103
JUNIOR MEN	56	58	44	49
JUNIOR WOMEN	50	51	44	50
TOTAL	374	372	341	351
PDI MEMBERSHIP	10	5	11	18
	3%	1%	3%	5%
CLUBS	6	6	8	8

In these numbers the size of our PDI membership is reflected. Although this membership number is low, it does show a slight increase compared to 2012. Increase in this component of our membership is crucial if we are to achieve our goal of making Orienteering accessible to all South Africans.

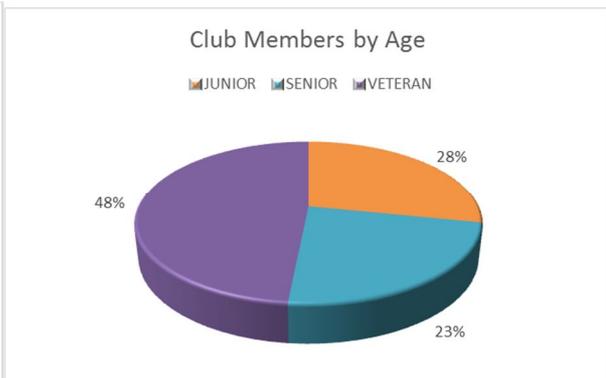
As in previous years, the Orienteering Schools Leagues (OSL), which were run in Gauteng, the Western Cape and Durban in 2013, provide the greatest access to PDI participants. As always the challenge is in converting school participation into club membership.

In 2013 the total number of "runs" at schools events was just over 970. The left-hand graph below illustrates the number of individual learners participating in schools league events as well as the ratio of PDI participation. In schools league events 54% of the participants are female.



The gender profile of our club membership is illustrated in the right-hand chart above. It is important to re-emphasise that this healthy proportion of female members is one of the strengths of orienteering. This falls within the priority area of “Access” within SRSA’s National Sport & Recreation Plan.

The age distribution of participants in Orienteering is another factor in our favour, once again demonstrating that Orienteering is an accessible sport. The graphs below, which summarise the age distribution of our membership, are clear evidence that Orienteering truly is a *Sport for Life*.



Participation

The trend in participation levels at official club events over the past 5 years is illustrated in the figure below. The most concerning aspect of this graph is the drop off in both the number of events as well as the total participation across all club events. Even ignoring the spike in 2012 due to the Big Five O event, there is a return to participation levels last seen in 2010. One possible reason for the decline in the average number of participants per event was the large number of events hosted on the Gauteng calendar that required participants to spend the weekend away from home.



The big spike in 2012 was due to the Big Five event. 2013 does not include some Gauteng events which have moved later in the year. It should be noted that these figures do not include CATIs, Novelty events, School events, training events.

A more encouraging trend is the increase in the total participant numbers at all Orienteering Schools league events in 2013. This number is nearing 1000 participants across events in Gauteng, Cape Town and Durban. Also encouraging is that learners from 26 schools participated in these various leagues.

Clubs are encouraged to assess the reasons for the decline in participation levels in 2013 and to find ways to grow participation levels in the coming season.

Young Orienteers Challenge (YOC)

YOC is a participation incentive scheme for pre-teenager children.

The aim of the programme is to assist clubs to grow their membership by providing age appropriate incentives for children to complete events. The programme creates an incentive for children (and their families) to return and complete at least 3

events, and thus build some traction (i.e. return from one year to the next) compared to one-time event participants. Importantly the programme taps into the family-friendly nature of the sport, allowing children and parents to participate together. This is the fifth year that the scheme has been run successfully in Gauteng.



The table below contains information regarding the impact of YOC on attendance. A direct comparison with previous years is made difficult by various changes that were made to the Gauteng orienteering calendar in 2013. These include the mixing up of the short-course (SC) and colour-coded (CC) events, a number of date changes (to those published on the YOC card) midway through

the season and the fact that two events were held on Saturdays (events being traditionally held on Sundays).

Year	Total Cards	# of events	Average cards per event	Total feet over season	average feet per event	YOC kids as % total feet
2006	439	6	69	444	74	
2007	699	9	71	707	79	
2008	500	6	85	508	93	
2009	788	8	99	1 003	125	24%
2010	828	8	104	1 117	140	24%
2011	781	8	98	1 019	127	23%
2012	792	8	99	1 020	128	26%
2013	520	6	87	634	106	22%

Note: These figures capture numbers at the official Gauteng SC events. The YOC programme started in 2009

Activities & Achievements

LTPD and the SA Coach Framework



Since the launch of our Long Term Participant Development (LTPD) model in September 2011 the SAOF has continued to participate in the *Monitoring and Evaluation* meetings coordinated by SASCOC. Our focus on the implementation of this model has been on the development of a Coach Education system. This project is being tackled by the revived Coaching Commission (Tania Wimberley – chair; Garry Morrison; Sarah Pope and Nicholas Mulder).

Because this initiative makes sense for the development and growth of orienteering in South Africa, the Management Committee signed a resolution in November 2011 committing the SAOF to align its work with the SA Coach Framework project being managed by SASCOC. This Framework aims to develop a unified coaching pathway with consistent standards for all sports in South Africa.

After the submission of our 2012 Willing, Ready and Able (WRA) assessment, Orienteering was grouped in amongst the 14 Lead Federations for the implementation phase of the SA Coach Framework. Shortly after, our Coaching Framework Implementation Plan 2013-18 was submitted to SASCOC.

The culmination of the initial phase of this plan will be the qualification of eight coaches with the UK Level 2 Coaching Certificate in Orienteering and a further five coaches with the Level 1 qualification. Funding has been sought in 2014 for the development of the equivalent SA qualifications and alignment with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

We must give special thanks to the British Orienteering Federation with whom we have reached a formal agreement of cooperation. Not only have they waived the cost of their Coach Tutors and Assessors, who have recently visited us, but they have agreed to provide electronic copies of all their coaching materials for our adaptation.

It is anticipated that a number of the newly qualified SA coaches will go on to become accredited Instructors / tutors, who are then able to deliver the coaching courses to the next generation of South African orienteering coaches.

Mapping

A great deal of activity was undertaken within the mapping sphere in the past year. Activities included:

- provision of two Introductory Mapping courses (Jo'burg & Durban);
- generation of "how to guides" to help beginner map-makers;
- distribution of OCAD 11 Starter licenses to our smaller clubs (Tuks-O, DOC);
- distribution of an OCAD 11 Starter license and laptop to support development in Polokwane;
- submission of SAOF input to the IOF on the International Specification for Orienteering Maps (ISOM), revision project;
- release of a user-friendly mapping grant application form;
- funding of a number of development and strategic maps

A strategic map is one that can serve a number of the SAOF's purposes. These include use towards high-quality championship events, training facilities for our high performance athletes and as facilities for development activities.

The SAOF funded the following strategic maps in 2013:

- four Big Five O maps
- Oak Valley (SA Sprint Champs)
- Haenertsburg extensions (MTB O & ISSOM version of SLC grounds)

The Haenertsburg maps in particular demonstrate the potential value of these maps. These maps have been used in conjunction with the SA Champs 2012 and the GOC Champs 2013 to assist with our development efforts in Limpopo. These efforts together with the Jo'burg mapping course has seen the formulation of two orienteering clubs in Limpopo (Polokwane Orienteering Club and Mphachue Orienteering Club).

The SAOF's input on the International Specification for Orienteering Maps (ISOM) revision project was formulated by an ad-hoc mapping commission (Nico van Hoepen, Nicholas Mulder, Paul Wimberley, Kobus Coetzee). This group of eminent South African mappers is thanked for their time and effort in responding comprehensively to the IOF's draft update of the ISOM.

EMIT System

In 2013, the SAOF added to its EMIT system with another 150 e-cards, 25 control blocks and two printers. This purchase has been made for a number of reasons. As well as supporting the Big Five O event, the purchase was necessary to provide replacements for the large number of e-card failures in the Western Cape as well as to replace the failing printers in Gauteng.

Unfortunately the newly supplied control bricks and e-cards had a manufacturing problem and are to be replaced. These will be available in time for the 2013-14 edition of the Big Five O event.

Administration

The contracting out of the day-to-day administration function of the SAOF is crucial to the SAOF's ability to be more effective in its efforts to develop and grow the sport. We must again thank our administrator (Val Brentano) for her dedication and hard work.

There is still much work to be done in the Administration portfolio to transform the SAOF into a more efficient and effective body.

Highlights of the year include:

- Successful reapplication to SASCOC for membership;
- Generation of a draft document detailing the Duties and Responsibilities of officers and committees;
- Commencement of a review of the SAOF constitution;
- Increase of Event Liability insurance cover for fire damage (now R5m)

There has been a suggestion from SRSA that they intend to require sports and recreation bodies to reapply for recognition. As was the case with the SASCOC reapplication, the aim of this is to achieve improved financial control and governance compliance amongst recognised sports and recreation bodies. Whilst the SAOF generally scores very well in these dimensions, we must not become complacent and strive to continually improve our systems and processes.

Finance & Funding

The SAOF's audited financial statement forms part of this Annual Report and is attached as an Annexure.

The funding of recognised sports within South Africa has developed substantially over the past few years. In response to an assessment that much of the funding in the recent past had not been used for the intended purposes, SRSA have been taking measures to remedy this situation. Whilst this is still a work in progress, SRSA have committed to address the short-comings, which they recognise as presenting challenges to their funded partners. Whilst there is no short-term aim to move to a multi-year funding cycle, there is a willingness to work together with National Federations to improve the current situation for mutual benefit.

It is clear that there are significant funding resources available to the SAOF. In order to ensure continued access to this funding, it is also clear that the SAOF needs to continue to improve both the specification of the projects for which funds are applied as well as its capacity to deliver on those projects.

In the previous annual report the misalignment in the timing of the grant application deadlines and the SAOF AGM was highlighted. This means that the AGM is left with little to no input into the fund application process. In an attempt to involve the Members more in this process the SAOF held a funding conference on 3 June 2013. Stronger involvement of our member clubs is required if we are to continue to grow and develop orienteering within South Africa and realise our vision.

The status of our current grants and pending applications are recorded below

NLDTF

By the end of 2012 the SAOF completed expenditure on and submitted the final report on our 2009 grant (Project No. 32302). As yet we have not completed expenditure of our 2011 grant (Project No. 46720). The outstanding portion of this grant is earmarked for Capacity Building, Transformation and Development and High Performance.

It is not the intention of the SAOF to apply for further lottery money at this stage. This is deemed prudent with the improved access to money from SRSA and our current lack of capacity to spend the annually available funds.

SRSA

The funding landscape for recognised sporting bodies in South Africa has improved dramatically over the past two years. The Funding Framework adopted by SRSA in early 2012 makes two tiers of funding available to National Federations. The first is a guaranteed portion to be used for administrative purposes and the second is a conditional portion. Access to the conditional tier depends on an approved business plan that must detail projects that address SRSA's priorities, including Transformation and implementation of the National Sports and Recreation Plan. Continued access to this source of funding is dependent on demonstrable progress along these dimensions as well as meeting SRSA's financial reporting and governance requirements.

- 2012/13 Grant Application

In 2012 the SAOF received a R700 000 grant from SRSA. This consisted of a guaranteed tier allocation of R100 000 and a conditional tier allocation of R600 000. By the end of the grant period on 31 March 2013, we had only been able to spend approximately R360 000 of the grant. However, we had spent an additional R200 000 against our two lottery grants.

- 2013/14 Grant Application

In August 2013, the SAOF submitted an application for a grant consisting of a guaranteed tier amount of R200 000 and a conditional tier amount of R500 000. As of yet we have not received confirmation of the grant, but we have obtained permission to spend the unspent portion of our 2012/13 grant.

Delays in the funding application process, the approval process and the payment of monies from SRSA contribute to the challenging environment within which the SOAF is required to operate. These challenges are recognised by SRSA and all sports have been assured that SRSA is working hard to improve this situation.

Own Funds

During 2012/13 we have tried to make minimum use of our own funds. We have maintained a healthy reserve with the intention of guaranteeing our cash flow whilst we wait for payments from SRSA. We also deem this approach to be prudent in case funding from SRSA is greatly reduced or withdrawn. Should such a scenario arise we would be able to continue with the essential business of the Federation.

Whilst the current SRSA funding environment is healthy for the SAOF, we should not take this for granted. We need to put more effort into growing our funding base and securing complementary financial resources.

Development

For the foreseeable future, Development activities will be the cornerstone of our efforts to reach our mission of growing the sport of orienteering and making it accessible to all South Africans. Our efforts can be divided in two types of activity. The first is the development and supply of materials that aim to reduce the "barriers to entry" and provide newcomers to the sport with simple and practical resources for introducing orienteering in a new area. The second activity is to seek opportunities to engage with people who show an interest in Orienteering. This engagement takes the form of one-on-one visits as well as the provision of courses. Our focus for these activities has thus far been on high schools. To increase our activity levels we have supported two part-time project managers.

Expansion Plan

Expansion plan activities carried out in 2013 included:

- Development of Level 1 and Level 2 "O in a Box" resource materials;
- Development of an Introductory mapping course, together with "how to" guides;
- Delivery of two Introductory mapping courses (Jo'burg and Durban)
- 13 O in the Box visits to Gauteng schools;
- 13 Level 1 and 6 Level 2 O in a Box resource packs to schools in Gauteng
- Provision of O in a Box resource packs to 2 Durban schools
- Provision of 10 O in a Box resource packs to PenOC for distribution in Cape Town.
- Tutoring of PenOC members in using the O in a Box resource.
- Presentation of an Introductory Teachers Training course to a group of about 50 Life Orientation teachers from the Eden and Central Karoo district.

Schools Development

We have sought to encourage development of orienteering in schools by supporting the Gauteng Schools league, the Durban Schools League and Schools orienteering in the Western Cape.



In Gauteng efforts have been made to embrace social media platforms to increase the appeal to the youth.

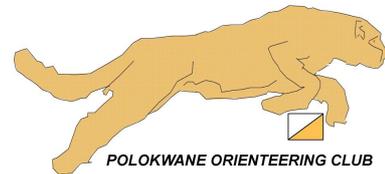
The Gauteng Schools Orienteering camp was held for the third year in 2013 and continues to be an excellent platform to (i) excite learners about orienteering, (ii) serve as a talent ID environment, (iii)

give coaches opportunities to develop their skills and (iv) provide the opportunity for young club orienteers to become involved as assistant coaches. It is hoped that over time more of these camps will be offered.

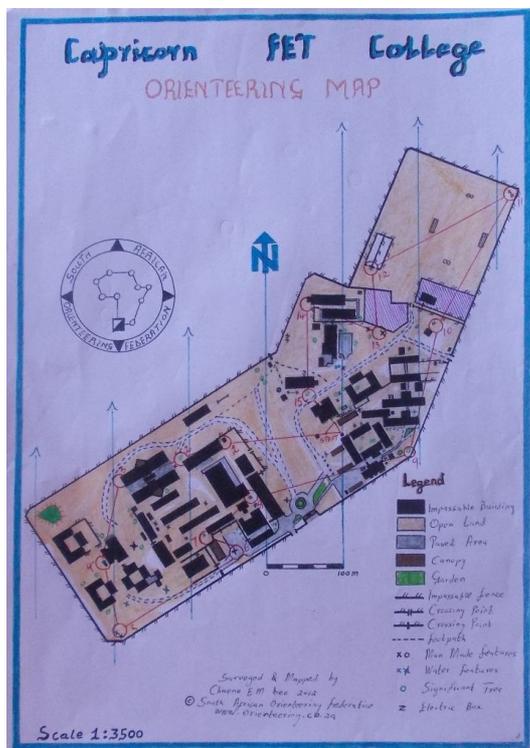
Club Development



We have provided club kits to Tuks-O and Ephraim Chuene (Polokwane). The latter has seen the formation of the Polokwane Orienteering Club, which together with the Mphachue Orienteering Club hosted their first



orienteering event in August 2013. In 2014 we aim to provide Mphachue with their own club kit and to support both of these clubs to become members of the SAOF and to put on more events.



In order to make substantial and sustainable progress in a new area it is clear that we need to provide regular and visible support. Whilst it is obvious that we need to identify those people who “pull” for more, it is also clear that we need to increase our capacity to support these people. This is especially true if we are to expand further beyond the current areas of development.

The long-term impact of our development and growth efforts remains to be seen. However, the progress that has been witnessed over the past two years offers plenty of encouragement to increase our efforts. We appeal to our Member clubs and all individual members to seek ways to become more involved in these rewarding activities.

Major Events

Big Five O

The second Big Five O event is due to take place at the end of 2013. The SAOF continues to support this event both conceptually and financially. This event, perhaps more than any other, has the potential to assist with the growth and development of orienteering in South Africa. The event offers quality orienteering, quality competition across the age classes and the opportunity to engage with the many overseas visitors. In addition the event has started driving a number of innovations that will be potentially beneficial to all clubs hosting orienteering events.

It is also hoped that legacy projects will follow a given Big Five O event with the aim to support the emergence of orienteering in those areas.

A positive spin-off from our relationship with British Orienteering, is that the Board of Directors from the Scottish 6 Day Company granted permission to share the Technical and the Organiser manuals with the Big 5 O organising committee. The SAOF is highly thankful to the Scottish 6 Day Company and trust that the Big Five O organising committee will find these manuals an invaluable asset.

SA Champs

An outstanding action from last year is to have a review of our national championship events. One aim would be to generate a long-term schedule for both the terrain and sprint championships. Another aim would be to consider the optimum dates for these events with the objective of seeking to maximise the participation levels. Any proposals will also have to adhere to relevant the LTPD principles. An output would be an updated *SA Champs Guidelines* document, which could include whether or not the events need to carry WRE status.

SA Champs 2014 is already earmarked for KZN in the Hilton College area as a collaboration between DOC and RACO. It is hoped that similar to the 2012 SA Champs in Haenertsburg, the 2014 event, which will be based around Hilton College, will serve to boost the growth of orienteering in KZN.

WRE's

Since the first World Ranking Event (WRE) in South Africa in 2009 there has been a good trend with South African clubs hosting their maximum allocation of three WRE's in 2012.

- 2009 – 2 (SA Champs: Middle & Long)
- 2011 – 2 (SA Champs: Middle & Long)
- 2012 – 3 (Big Five O: Day 3 – Long and Day 5 – Sprint; SA Champs: Middle)
- 2013 – 2 (SA Sprint Champs; Big Five O: Day 2 - Long)
- 2014 – 1 (Big Five O: Day 3 – Middle)

The South African clubs are encouraged to continue to strive to host as many WRE's as possible. As well as ensuring continuity of ranking for our elite athletes, the aim is to continually strive to improve the quality of our flagship events. With the successful accreditation of two IOF Event Advisers in the Cape (Ake Fagereng and Ruedi Siegenthaler), we now have four accredited IOF Event Advisers in South Africa.

In addition to the changes to the WOC format, the IOF has proposed associated changes to the World Ranking System. The most important of these is that there will be a separate ranking system

for the Sprint and Terrain formats. The implication of this is that each country will be entitled to host 3 Sprint WREs and 3 Forest WREs per season.

Member clubs are encouraged to submit applications to enable South Africa to host our full quota of WREs.

High Performance

Further progress was made to refine the High Performance (HP) documentation in 2013. The most notable output is the consolidated SAOF HP Athlete's Handbook, which contains information on all aspects of HP relevant to the athletes. A major change of approach is that athletes are now required to apply to become national squad members. In addition all national squad members are also required to sign an agreement to abide by the conditions of squad membership.

Further work is required to better specify the roles and responsibilities of the Selectors, the High Performance Manager and the responsible SAOF Management Committee member.

The current High Performance strategic plan expires this year. An updated HP strategic plan is required for the next four year cycle (between World Games). One of the pleasing requirements is the need to review our performance targets due to the excellent performances of our athletes at JWOC and WOC over the past two years.

One marked change to the HP activities in 2013, was the international training camp attended by a group of six athletes and a coach in March. This week-long camp was near fully-funded by a portion of our 2012/13 SRSA grant. It is perhaps not a coincidence that this camp was followed by many notable performances at JWOC a few months later. The benefits of providing opportunities for our athletes to gain experience in a variety of terrains without the stress of performance appear obvious.

Another notable change this year was that a number of our trainee coaches were involved in the local HP training camp. This freed up our HP manager and HP coach to focus on the elite squad, whilst the other coaches could give more attention to less-experienced junior and youth squads. With the involvement of more coaches in the HP activities the SAOF will be more able to give the individual squads the attention they deserve.

Other than the international training camp there were three overseas trips, including a youth tour, one woman and three men attending JWOC and a single man attending WOC. Excellent debut performances by Roark Robinson and Timothy Chambers indicate that with the right support and encouragement they can go on to set new best performances at JWOC in the coming years.

Whilst Michael Crone's DQ in the Sprint at the World Games was a disappointment, it has already been mentioned that SASCO only permitted our participation on the basis of his excellent Sprint qualification at WOC 2012. It is important to also note that his performance in the Middle distance event, did improve on our previous World Games best.

Undoubtedly the standout performances in the elite arena in 2013 were those of Bradley Lund in his final year at JWOC. He became the first-ever South African to reach the A final in the JWOC middle distance event. This was followed up by an excellent showing in the Sprint final. The benchmark for

South African elite international performances has been raised again. The challenge will now be to get our athletes to consistently perform at these new levels.

WOC in Future

At the 2012 IOF Congress the decision was made to change the WOC format. With the exception of the sprint, the new format would see the elimination of qualification races and the addition of a sprint relay for teams of 2 men and 2 women. Whilst the new format was due to be introduced in 2016, the organisers of WOC 2014 and 2015 have both elected to adopt the new format.

The stated intent of a new WOC format is to make the event less onerous to host and simultaneously more attractive as a television spectacle. Within the international orienteering community there is a great deal of diversity of opinion as to whether or not the new format will have the desired effect. A common concern amongst many of the smaller federations is that the new format will have a counterproductive effect on the global development of orienteering and in the improvement of elite-level orienteering globally.

This is also the opinion of the SAOF. Whilst we can send up to three men and three women to the Sprint qualification events at future WOCs, the new qualification system effectively means that South Africa can only send one male and one female competitor to each of the Middle distance and Long distance finals.

There is an additional option that is potentially available to South Africa. The new qualification system also grants entry to the Middle and/or Long WOC final to the individual Regional Champions. Obviously we would be confident that, for the foreseeable future, a South African would be crowned Regional Champion should such an event exist. However, we need to proceed down this road with caution. On the one hand it appears straightforward to apply to have one of our Provincial or National Championship events double-up as the African Championship. Of greater concern is the political fallout that will arise if we do not go through the correct channels within South Africa, and we host what would be superficially an African Championship. I believe that such an approach would be interpreted (correctly) by SASCOC and SRSA as opportunistic and would seriously harm the good standing we enjoy with both bodies.

Conclusion

In Summary, 2013 has once again been a busy year and we have built on the progress made in 2012. We believe that orienteering in South Africa is moving forward on the path to growth and development and to become accessible to more South Africans. It is only by increasing and sustaining our collective effort that we can ensure the seeds that we have sown will take root and grow.

Orienteering the world over is fortunate to count amongst its participants many highly skilled individuals. This is also true in South Africa. And so we appeal to all orienteers in South Africa to get involved and to find avenues where their skills and experience can be put to best use. There are many exciting and rewarding opportunities that need more hands, minds and hearts.