
Forth Valley Orienteers

Development Document



Competitions & Events

- Organise Scottish Six Day and other “National” events in conjunction with other Scottish Clubs
- Hold a badge event and colour coded in even years and two colour coded events in odd years
- Hold at least one Come and Try It (CATI) event per year
- Hold at least one alternative format event per year (SprintO, Score, BikeO, TrailO, LongO, NightO etc.)
- Hold annual Forth Valley Schools event
- Use Sport Ident electronic punching for all events of badge status and above and other events where appropriate
- Encourage participation and competition for club members at all levels
- Organise internal Club Championships annually
- Provide a contact point at events either information boards or a noticeable person

Training & Development

- Provide at least 2 technique training events per year
- Support all levels of development within coaching activities
- Provide regular fitness training for members of all abilities throughout the year
- Continue Wednesday Evening Event series, providing a more technical training option where feasible
- Support National Orienteering Centre (Glenmore Lodge) through regular events
- Aim to have 10 coaches for club training
- Provide a SportIdent training course for club members
- Provide training for Mappers, Planners, Controllers and Organisers

Mapping & Access

- Develop a rolling programme of re-mapping small areas, such as Minewoods, Hermitage, etc., on a 1.5 per year basis
- Digitise (OCAD) existing non-badge event maps by end 2004 and existing badge event areas by end 2005
- Produce an annual mapping report and review map stocks on a rolling basis
- Ensure all new maps are OCAD based
- Develop plans for and map one new badge event area and 2 training areas by the year 2006
- Maintain current Permanent Courses and develop two new courses by 2004
- Provide single point of contact for landowners of FVO areas and liaise closely as appropriate

Organisation

- Operate the club within the constitutional framework
- Improve links with youth groups (e.g., Scouts, BB, Guides, etc.) and schools across Forth Valley
- Introduce new member liaison with local club contacts to provide support and advice on all aspects of orienteering
- Ensure up-to-date membership list available annually
- Use email and the FVO website as a communication tool where appropriate
- Review development plan on a 3-yearly basis
- Ensure good practice in Child Protection policy
- Pursue Charter Club status

Financial

- Remain cash positive, but don't accrue any unnecessary cash surplus
- Develop costing plans for sale of FVO maps to different organisations
- Define and publish proposed levels of support for Relay events, CompassSport Cup, 11-person relay, etc., annually
- Define expense levels for event officials, etc.

- Pursue sponsorship and other sources of funding
- Provide financial support to juniors in representative squads and teams in accordance with club policy

Equipment

- Maintain capability to use electronic punching equipment
- Review equipment status annually and purchase new/replacement equipment as appropriate
- Maintain and control existing stocks of maps and ensure a realistic valuation

External relations

- Pursue permanent and temporary sponsorship options with local industry/organisations
- Improve publicity of club in local area, particularly through press
- Regularly attend Stirling Sports Council meetings and appropriate events
- Regularly attend Falkirk Sports Council meetings and appropriate events
- Attend Clackmannanshire Sports Council Meetings.
- Create links with other sports clubs

Membership Activities

- Provide a wide ranging series of social activities to meet the demands of club members
- Define level of financial support for social events on an annual basis
- Issue 6 newsletters to club members (+ complimentary recipients) annually
- Improve communication of organisational matters and committee business with club members
- Provide benefits to club members attained through, e.g., sponsorship or membership of local sports councils
- Develop awards Scheme of annual trophies etc.

Club/Personal Performance

- Aim to have at least 2/3 juniors in the Scottish Junior / an Area Squad
- Aim to finish in top 3 in most years in Scottish Inter Clubs Competition
- Aim to finish in top 5 in UK Relay League in most years
- Aim to have club members in the Senior Squad

Competitions & Events

Responsible Persons: President, Team Captain, Vice President

- **Organise appropriate Scottish Six Day and other “National” event in conjunction with other Scottish Clubs**
The Scottish Six Days of Orienteering is held every two years (odd years), with the burden of central organisation falling on two or three Scottish clubs. Remaining Scottish clubs are allocated a day to organise, plan and control. FVO played a lead role in Tayside '85 and Breadalbane '97, and in other years has been the lead club for the chosen day.
Other events in this category include the Scottish and British Championships, and Jan Kjellström.
- **Hold a badge event and colour coded in even years and two colour coded events in odd years**
This is a sustainable major event workload for Persons to complement our role in providing officials for the Scottish Six Day event and other major competitions.
- **Hold one Come and Try It (CATI) event per year**
CATI are events designed to appeal to complete novices and passing public to offer the chance to try orienteering. These events will be important in broadening the understanding of orienteering, attracting publicity and increasing our membership base.
- **Hold one alternative format event per year (SprintO, Score, etc.)**
Alternative format events allow the club to use mapped areas perhaps unsuitable for a conventional event of this size, and serve to attract additional participation.
- **Hold annual Forth Valley Schools event**
Following the demise of Central Region, organisation of a local Area Schools Championship has fallen to FVO. This is an important event for the club, and serves to attract publicity for the club and reward for pupils and their schools.
In 2001, 2002 and 2003 this has been a mass-participation event attracting several hundred participants. We will review what format is appropriate for future events.
- **Use Sport Ident electronic punching for all events of badge status and above**
Sport Ident electronic punching is well established in Scotland at local level, significantly reduces manpower requirements and leads to speedier and more accurate results. Consideration should be given to adoption at colour-coded events, but care taken not to create barriers to volunteer officials.
- **Encourage participation and competition for club members at all levels**
It is as important that we ensure member participation and competition for all levels of the club. FVO has a good reputation as a breeding ground for orienteers of international standard.
- **Organise internal Club Championships annually**
The FVO Club Championships allow club members to compete at both a scratch and handicap level, and are the focus for the award of the club's annual trophies at the Dinner Dance.

Training & Development

Responsible Persons: Social Secretary, Team Captain

- **Provide at least 2 technique training events per year**
These events should be low-key events designed to allow club members to practise and improve particular orienteering techniques as opposed to competition. These events can be stand-alone or incorporated into other events, such as indoor training, Wednesday Evening Events, or Glenmore Lodge weekends.
- **Provide regular fitness training for members of all abilities throughout the year**
Physical fitness is an advantage for orienteering success, and is also a feature of many of the other pastimes of club members. It is therefore important that the club facilitates regular fitness training opportunities for club members through, for instance, indoor training and weekly club runs

- **Continue Wednesday Evening Event series, providing a more technical training option where feasible**
Wednesday Evening Events (WEE) provide a valuable focus for orienteering during the summer, and encourage schools and novice participation. They can also facilitate member training, and allow the club to use local community areas that may not otherwise be suitable for orienteering. It has been enhanced by the addition of a points league, with certificates and prizes for participation.
- **Support National Orienteering Centre (Glenmore Lodge) through regular events**
The National Orienteering Centre (Glenmore Lodge) is a long-awaited national resource with excellent facilities for group accommodation and orienteering organisation. The Club has regularly held popular weekend breaks at Glenmore Lodge that have incorporated a range of activities, including technique training. The nature of the Lodge also ensures the event has a strong social focus.
- **Provide training for club members**
Club members provide the expertise and volunteer workforce for all events. It is therefore essential to maintain and enhance these skills by providing training.

Mapping & Access

Responsible Persons: Mapping Officer, Vice President

- **Develop a rolling programme of re-mapping small areas, such as Minewoods, Hermitage, etc., on a 1.5 per year basis**
By their nature, many of our smaller, more public areas require regular re-mapping to ensure accurate maps, which in turn will avoid disenchanting newcomers to the sport. The aim is to ensure three such areas are re-mapped every two years, with re-survey work carried out by club members, or professionally, as appropriate.
- **Digitise (OCAD) existing non-badge event maps by end 2004 and existing badge event areas by end 2005**
Already most non-badge event areas are in electronic form. In the badge event category, FVO has Birnam, South Achray, the Trossachs, Touch and Airthrey Castle: of these only Birnam is still to be converted to OCAD form. Survey and update of these areas is not included in this target.
- **Produce an annual mapping report and review maps on a rolling basis**
An annual mapping report should recount progress on mapping objectives and progress with the conversion of existing maps to digital form. Map stocks should be accounted and reviewed on an annual basis to maintain an accurate record and costing of club property and to avoid unnecessary accumulation of redundant maps. FVO has in excess of 30 000 maps, of which nearly half are deemed redundant.
- **Ensure all new maps are OCAD based**
By default, all newly maps should be based on OCAD, with an electronic copy residing with the club mapping officer. OCAD allows for smaller print runs of frequently changing areas, and can provide tailored maps for training events or public participation
- **Develop plans for and map two new badge event areas by the year 2006**
FVO have a limited number of well-used badge event areas, and additional badge event areas will allow increased flexibility for event planning and relieve over-familiarity with current areas. This objective should be balanced against the possible use of National Centre maps around the Aviemore area.
- **Maintain current Permanent Courses and develop two new courses by 2004**
We have three permanent courses currently in use (Abbey Craig, Coilehallen, South Achray), with another two areas (Callendar Park, Gartmorn) currently in abeyance. We would like to renew these two courses, and investigate new permanent course developments at Muiravonside and Hermitage Woods.
- **Provide single point of contact for landowners of FVO areas and liase closely as appropriate**
A single access co-ordinator is now in place for all issues of land access and permission, and has proven successful. This access link with landowners and local authorities should continue to be developed.

Organisation

Responsible Persons: Secretary, President

- **Operate the club within the constitutional framework**
Club officials should exercise due diligence to ensure the club operates within its constitution – the constitution can be amended at the AGM (or an EGM).
- **Improve links with youth groups (e.g., Scouts, BB, Guides, etc.) and schools across Forth Valley**
Youth Groups and Schools harbour members of the future, and it is important that they are aware of the club and what it has to offer. In addition, FVO has a mutual agreement with the Scouts regarding one mapped area.
- **Introduce new member liaison with local club contacts to provide support and advice on all aspects of orienteering**
The Club is aware that new members may feel abandoned or isolated unless additional support and advice is forthcoming.
- **Ensure up-to-date membership list available annually**
An up-to-date membership list is essential for committee members to contact members.
- **Use email and the FVO website as a communication tool**
FVO has registered a domain name (www.fvo.org.uk), and as a result can receive e-mail addressed to anything@fvo.org.uk. The club's website (www.scottish-orienteering.org/fvo) is maintained on a regular basis as a means of communicating with members and non-members. The club newsletter is made available in electronic form, as well as paper.
- **Child Protection Policy**
The Scottish Orienteering Association has a child protection policy which FVO adheres to.

Financial

Responsible Persons: Treasurer, Publicity Officer

- **Remain cash positive**
The Club should not aim to overdraw against available funds.
- **Develop costing plans for sale of FVO maps to different organisations**
The club sells a number of maps to various organisations, and it would be prudent to document proposed costings for greater clarity and for record purposes
- **Define and publish proposed levels of support for Relay events, CompassSport Cup, 14-person relay, etc., annually**
The Club supports participation in certain events during the year, and financial support for these should be published in advance to members.
- **Define expense levels for event officials, etc.**
The Club should define reasonable expense levels for club and event officials for greater clarity and for record purposes.
- **Provide financial support for juniors in representative squads and teams**
The Club wishes to encourage and support excellence among its young members, and will therefore provide up to one third of the individual contribution for participating in BOF junior squad tours and consider similar funding for SOA junior squad tours, subject to the finances of the club permitting this. In return, the participant is expected to write a report for the club newsletter.

Equipment

Responsible Persons: Equipment Officer, Treasurer, Mapping Officer

- **Maintain capability to use electronic punching equipment**
FVO has developed its trestles to accommodate the SI equipment that is available for club use within Scotland. SOA has developed a loan / hire scheme for the major equipment and software.
- **Review equipment status annually and purchase new/replacement equipment as appropriate**
FVO has a substantial stock of equipment. The equipment stock should be reviewed on a regular basis, and replacement or repairs effected as necessary.

External relations

Responsible Persons: Publicity Officer, President, Secretary

- **Pursue permanent and temporary sponsorship options with local industry/organisations**
Injection of further funds to the club would allow it to develop options beyond its current reach.
- **Improve publicity of club in local area, particularly through press**
Results have regularly been featured in local press: a more pro-active approach should be adopted, including for instance, news of social events, prize-givings and AGMs
- **Regularly attend Stirling Sports Council meetings and appropriate events**
The Club is a member of SSC and Clackmannanshire Sports Council: of these, SSC currently has a regular series of meetings that aim to help clubs function more effectively – these would be of value to FVO.

Membership Activities

Responsible Persons: Social Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Secretary

- **Provide a wide ranging series of social activities to meet the demands of club members**
The club caters for those of all abilities, and social events are both a means of meeting members and providing an alternative source of enjoyment. Many successful social events have been organised over past years.
- **Define level of financial support for social events on an annual basis**
Whilst the club is primarily concerned with orienteering, it is recognised that some social events may require club financial support
- **Issue 6 newsletters to club members (+ complimentary recipients) annually**
The bi-monthly newsletter is a key method of communicating with club members, particularly those unable to regularly attend events.
- **Improve communication of organisational matters and committee business with club members**
Only major items of note are communicated to the members, primarily through the newsletter or at the AGM: a suggestion would be to have a regular slot in the newsletter informing club members of salient committee business.
- **Provide benefits to club members attained through, e.g., sponsorship or membership of local sports councils**
The Club receives some benefits through membership of local sports councils, such as reduced cost physiotherapy; in addition, recent sponsorship allowed members to access savings at an outdoor store sale evening.

Club / Personal performance

Responsible Persons: Club Captain

- **Competition achievements**
The positive perception of the club by its members, by other orienteering clubs and by the external community in part depends on competitive success.

