

Organising Volunteers



EDINBURGH SOUTHERN ORIENTEERING CLUB

Organising Volunteers in Orienteering

- **Benedict Bate & Janet Clark ESOC**
- A quick look at ESOC
- Volunteers for;
- Organising events
- Event Helpers
- Planning & controlling
- Training & coaching
- Committee

Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club ESOC

- Membership in excess of 200
- However only 44 competitors at the recent Scottish Champs
- Every year ESOC stage one SoSOL, a sprint O, a Long O, about 10 local events & one (SOL &/or 6 Day, Scottish event)
- Where does the person power come from?

Types of member

- EOC has a variety of membership types
 1. The tried and tested longstanding member – some with a secret back ground!
 2. The becoming established newcomers who are hooked
 3. Large block of folk who are either new to the sport or who have stayed on the periphery
 4. Those who orienteer locally who never join a club
- O is a hard game – not everyone takes to it – over to Janet to describe how she identifies and involves those who might make willing and useful volunteers

Event Officials

- An event calendar is prepared well in advance
- This is published in the newsletter and event officials are either approached directly or volunteer themselves.
- How are they identified?
- From helpers

Date	Event	Planner	Organiser
Sun 21 Nov	Pericuik Estate	Scottish Score	vacancy Roger/Norma
A Guide is available			
organising made easy			

Helping at events

- These mainly come from groups 2 & 3
- Getting new folk involved is a question of knowing when they are ready
- They will enter most local events
- Knowing when they are ready is a question of touch and feel
- Also appreciating what skills each individual has.

Planning and Controlling

- Easier? – governed by BOF rules & regulations
- Both old hands and new folk are needed here.
- Time and commitment are important
- The local events and socials are a great way of giving newcomers experience
- Potential planners tend to float to the top
- However it is necessary to recognise when they are ready and approach them at the right time
- ESOC have facilitated courses in recent years to up skill the membership (e.g. Condes).

Training and Coaching

- Developed in the last few years in ESOC –the catalyst? - parents who wanted to get involved
- Volunteers have to be experienced
- Supported by the committee – who try to formalise, regularise & perhaps subsidise activities
- Now have a range of training going on
- Hard to say why, however ,but none the less the committee is pleased at the outcome.

Committee

- Again a mixture of old hands and up and coming members.
- Old hands can have other commitments e.g. SOA.
- New comers often come on to the committee when their children are involved in the sport
- Usually need to be approached
- How to spot when they are ready?

Summary

- Orienteering depends on volunteers
- It is a complicated sport and not to everyone's taste – hence high turnover of new and potential members.
- Clubs need to put on a series of well staged, publicised local events
- Sign up those who attend and monitor their progress and **swoop** when they are ready to contribute more widely!