

# Commentary and Spectator aspects for major events

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BOF major events conference

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# My Background

- Orienteer for 36 years
- Junior and Vet international
- Team Doctor to GB squad 1999-2005
- Attended 4 JWOC's and 5 WOC's
- Commentator since 2002

Commentary experience includes -

- 13 JK's
- 11 BOC's
- 8 BM/BS
- S6D, CSC, British schools
- British fell running champs
- World railway champs
- JEC
- World Cups 2002, 2005 (EOC)
- WOC 2015







# PA system



- Need to consider system sufficient for size of arena
- Note - will need separate PA system for prize giving if not near commentary box

# Software and Radio Controls

- In the UK we regularly use 3 systems
  - SportIdent (AutoDownload)
  - Michael Napier (MERCs) – SI or EMIT
  - SportSoftware (OE speaker)
- Radio controls, advice and IT assistance
  - GPPProjects
  - upgraded 2015: can support SI, SI-air, EMIT
  - NOT EMIT flyby (Allan Farrington)
- Numbers of PC's/screens depends on radio controls but usually need ~4 screens



# Which radio controls?

- ~33% and 66% of the way round classic distance Elite courses
  - Middle, sprint and relays only need one
  - These controls exclusive to elite classes, but common to all elite classes
- Pre-Spectator
  - 1-2 mins before reach spectator control
- Pre-Finish (usually penultimate)
  - Priority course(s)
  - 1-2 mins before athletes in view
- Final control (one common to all classes)
  - Everybody
- Finish (one common to all classes)
  - Everybody
- Road crossings (if timed)



# Planning considerations



- Technological constraints
  - Distant controls need mobile phone coverage
  - Signals may not reach over hills or around buildings
  - Radio controls can only be visited once in the race
  - Allow approx 1-2 min running time from pre-warning controls to when runner can be seen (can be a delay to receiving data)
- Timed Road Crossings
  - Both the before and after controls should be radio controls
  - Most commentary software can subtract the time for these controls



# Logistics/Issues

- Getting commentary box into required position (e.g. JK 2012)
- Network connection to results/download (<150m cable run)
- Cables from commentary to final control & finish (and protection)
- Timely IT set-up and dedicated support
- Commentary visibility of run in & spectator controls
  - including line of sight on the day: spectators/club tents
- Volume of data coming through
- Amount of individual info (e.g. entry system bio not really practical)
- Miss-punches/retiree's
- Punching/helpers starts
- Relay late changes – SI card, running order





# Relay Considerations

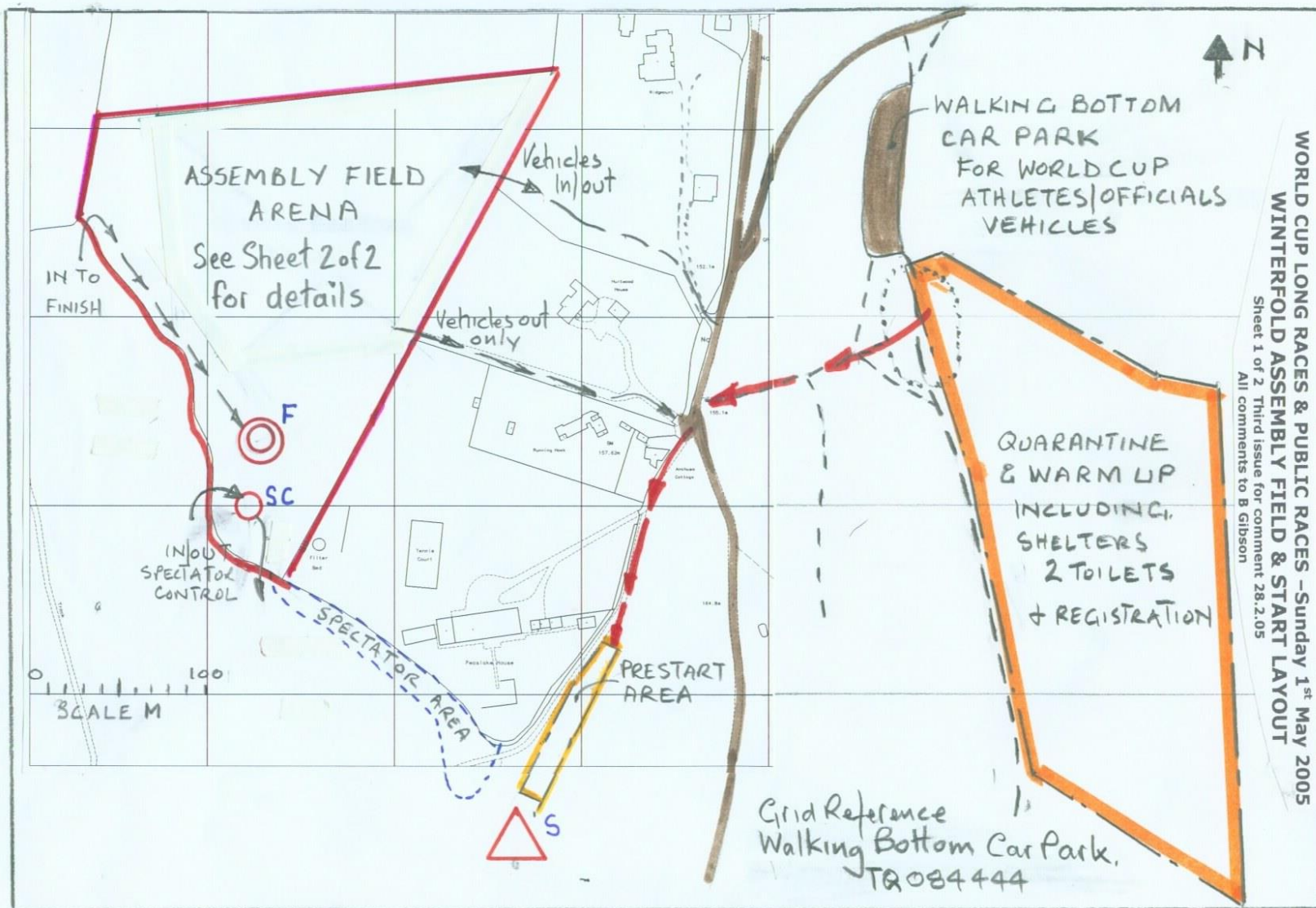
- Commentators' nightmare
- A lot of things, happening all at the same time (manic!)
  - less is definitely more
  - radio controls need to be on common controls
- Dibber check at map issue
  - catch team changes
- Board/area allocated for team's looking for additional runner(s)
  - reduce requests for PA announcements



# Information for commentary

- Start lists (inc pre-event)
- Previous day results
- Local info: area, landowners, sponsors, organisers
- Announcements – event notices
- Maps
- ? Interview with planners
- Prize giving ‘script’





British Long  
2013  
Winterfold

## Arena elite podium start

# Arena elite run through with map exchange





# British Middles 2013 Stanton Moor

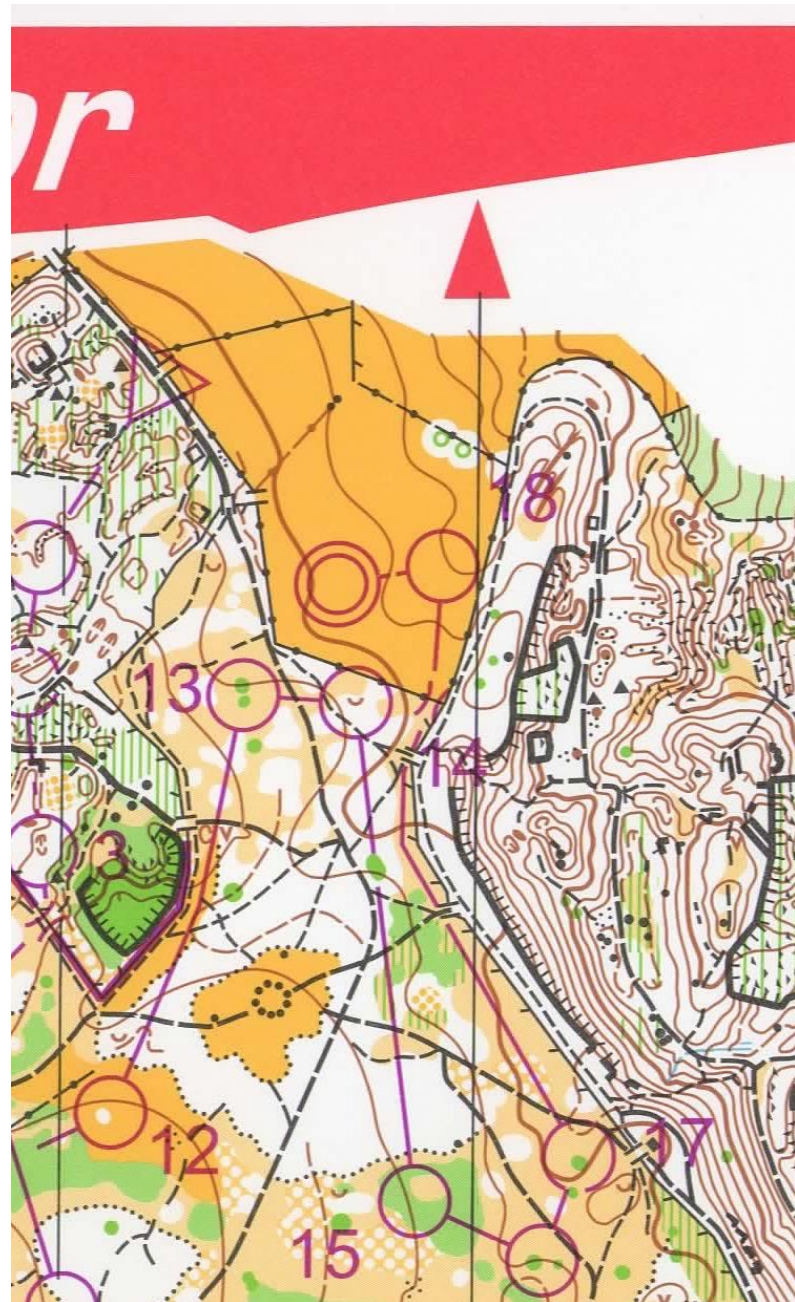
Pre-start in arena

Spectator leg (13-14) for  
most courses

Pre-warning for elites at  
control 17

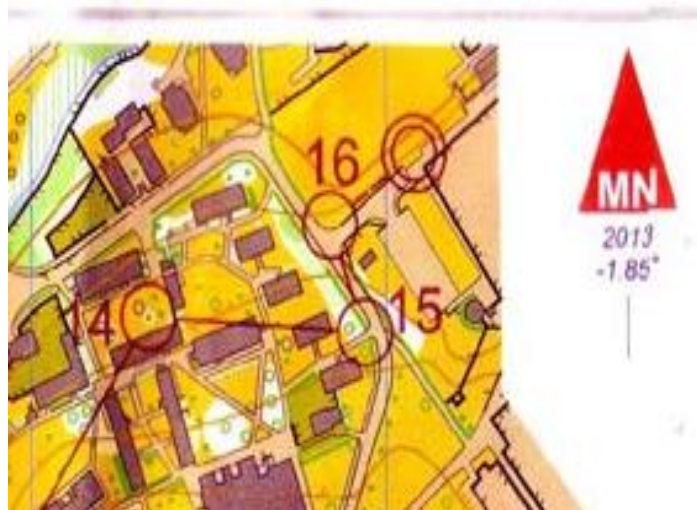
Spectators on 1 side of  
assembly so view  
uninterrupted

Visible last control/finish  
run-in





# British Sprints 2013 - Loughborough



Scale 1:4000  
Contours 2.5m

Qualification 2013				
Men Open M16 M35 M40				
	1.1	2.7 km	40 m	
1	58	■	>	
2	82	■	○	
3	70	↗	○	
4	47	↗	—	
5	66	■	<	
6	34	↗	↘	



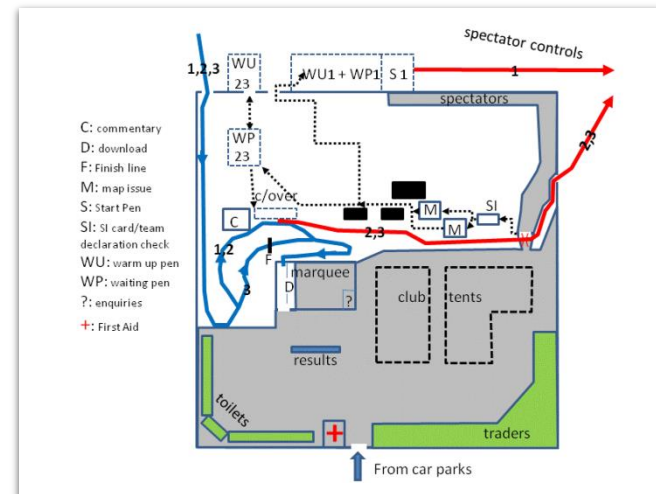
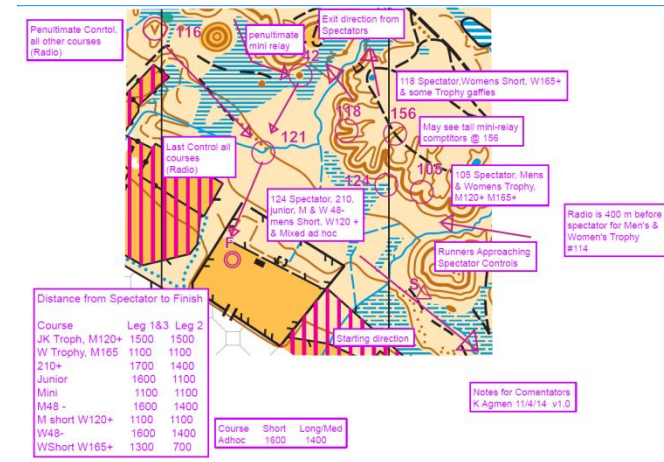
- Arena/spectators/commentary inside 'bowl' i.e. limited view
- Only commentary view of race was for the 50m from last control to finish, both heats and finals

# JK Relays 2014 - Pwll Ddu

+ve :great for runner viewing in terrain

-ve: not so great viewing in arena as most spectators couldn't see finish line (obstructed by large marquee)

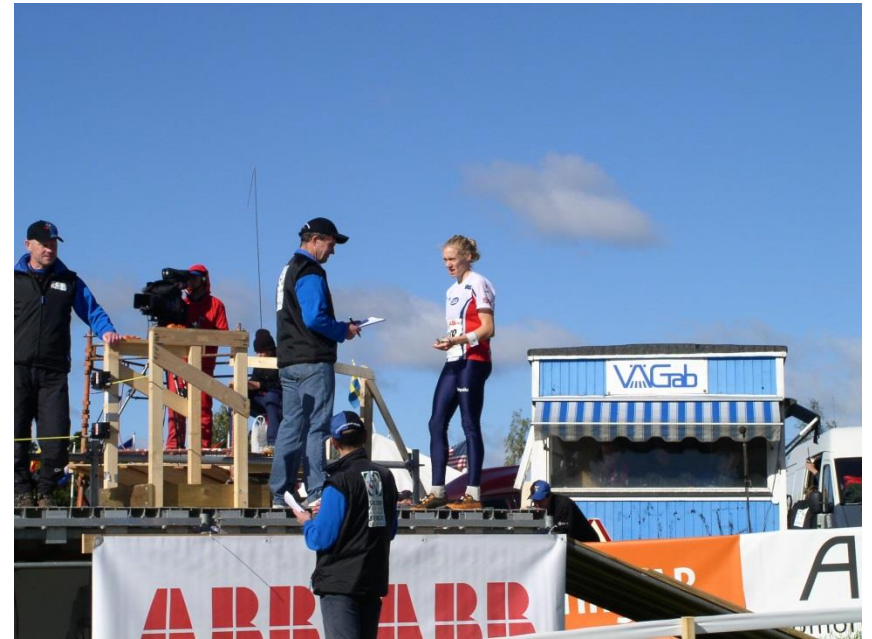
- stretched out nature made PA system difficult to hear from far end of arena where majority of spectators & club tents were situated (lining run-out)



# Considerations to enhance spectacle

- Elite platform starts in arena
  - Arena run through
  - Spectator controls with good visibility of approach/exit
  - Visibility of last control/ finish approach
  - Sweeping long(ish) run-in
- 
- Big screen
  - GPS tracking
  - Leader's seat - sprint/middle













# Summary - what is the ideal arena set-up for us

- Elite arena start
- Spectator control with view of approach/exit
- Priority classes pre-warning control ~1-2 mins away
- Common last control and finish
- Decent length sweeping run-in, to give plenty of talking time
- Spectators & tents not obstructing commentary view
- Commentary box close to download for cabling (not Wifi)
- Dedicated readily available IT support (Marsden's please!)
- Prize giving close to commentary box

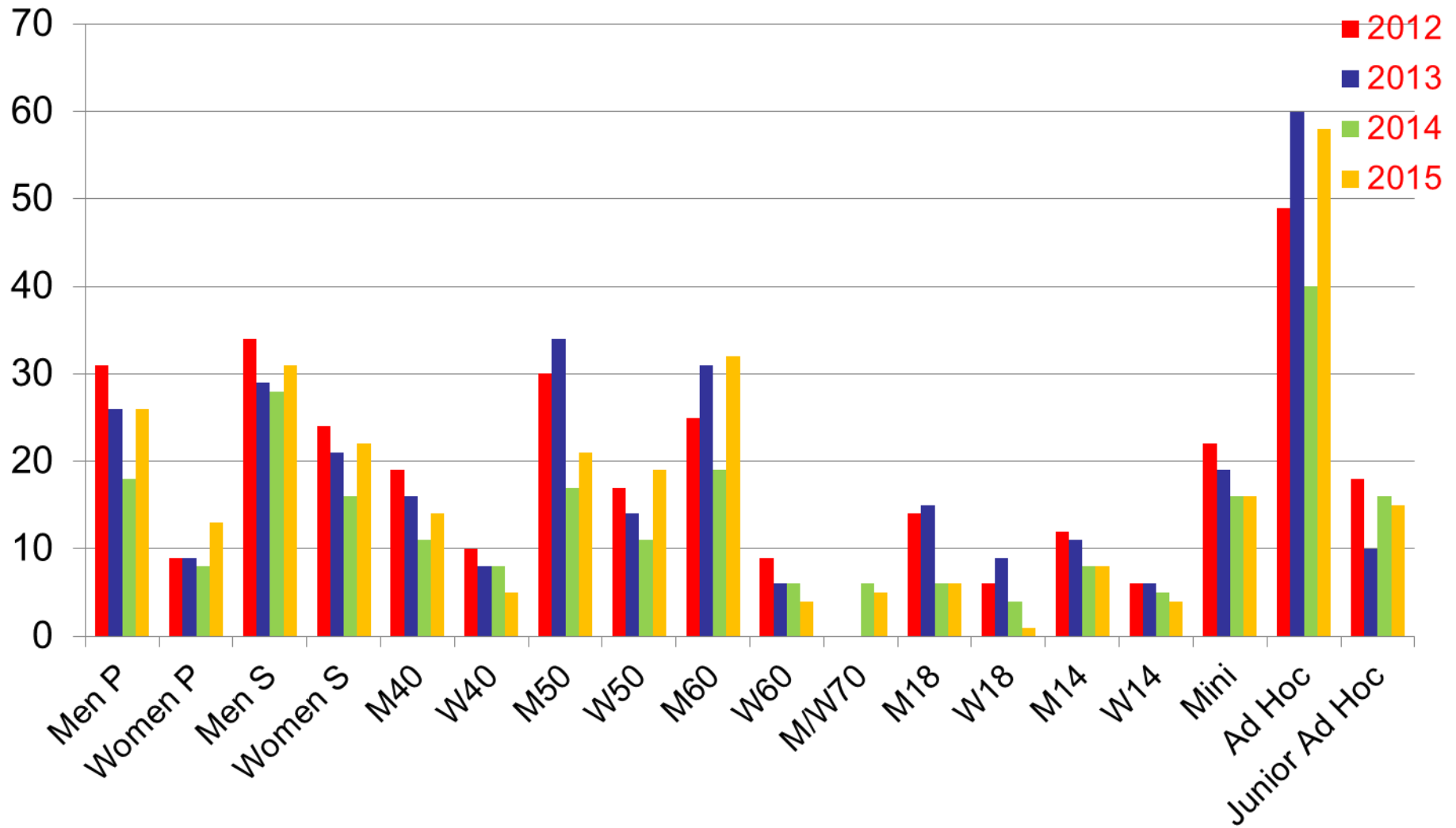


# Relay programme

- Delayed prize giving's JK & BRC 2015
- Awaiting medallists in predominately super vets classes
- BRC 2015: >3 hours running time to decide podium places in M/W70, W60, W40
- Very few entries in some classes
- 2014/15: W14, W18, M18, W40, W60, MW/70: all  $\leq 6$  teams
- BRC 2015: W18 – 1 team
- 'Overuse' of short and ad-hoc
- M/W 70: new class 2014
- 18 classes BRC



# BRC class entries 2012-15



# BRC 2015 programme

Classes	Bib numbers	Call up	Start	TD	Lengths (km)	Climb (m)
A - Men's Premier	1+	09.45	10.00	TD5	7.4	215
B - Women's Premier	101+	09.55	10.10	TD5	6.1	175
E - M40	4001+					
P - M14	1401+	10.05	10.20	TD3	2.6	70
Q - W14	1461+					
R - Mini Relays (M/W12-)	1201+	10.15	10.30	TD2	2.6	50
S - Mixed Ad Hoc	401+	10.25	10.40	TD5, TD3 & TD5	3.8, 2.7 & 4.9	95, 70 & 125
T - Junior Ad Hoc (M/W18-)	501+			TD3, TD2 & TD5	2.6, 2.2 & 4.0	70, 45 & 110
D - Women's Short	301+	10.35	10.50	TD5	4.3	120
H - W50	5061+					
K - W60	6061+					
N- W18	1861+					
L - M/W70	7001+					
C - Men's short	201+	10.45	11.00	TD5	5.3	110
F - W40	4061+					
J - M60	6001+					
M - M18	1801+					
G - M50	5001+	10.55	11.10	TD5	5.6	160



# Possible changes to relay programme

- Start order – MW/70, W60, W40: beginning of programme
- Men's & Women's premier – nearer end of programme
- W60, M/W70 – shorter courses
- Discourage use of (or get rid of!) junior ad-hoc and short classes
  - 'trophy hunters' (see prior winners)
  - why trophy/prizes for 'B' classes c/w individual races?
  - non-comp teams encouraged to run in age group classes
- Re-order classes similar to urban races? e.g in BRC: M/W 12-, M16-, W16-, M open, W open, M40+, W40+, M55+, W55+, M/W 65+, ad-hoc = 11 classes c/w current 18
- Avoid current situation of turn up = medal

# Questions?



# Contacts

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