

## MAG Report to E&CC November 2014

You will be aware that there were no applicants for the Map Advisory Group chair when advertised in the summer. I have decided that I will step down from 15 November at the E&CC meeting as the commitments I anticipated a year ago are preventing me from fulfilling the main purposes of the role, communication, coordination and direction.

I have again asked if any MAG members would be prepared to stand in as chair, at least in the short term, but not had any offers.

It is clear that the role of MAG has changed. The loss of the map registration and assessment schemes in 2009 resulted in the inability to oversee or even review the quality of maps. Now the move of decision making on map scale to events may lead to further loss of standardisation. I believe it is vital that the revised ISOM specification on publication receives full support and encouragement to adopt.

The list of current issues is below:

### **Map Scales and Rules**

Following the AGM, Appendix D and Rule changes are required, and in particular NWOA have asked about symbol sizes for 1:7,500 maps.

### **ISOM 201X Revision**

The revision is now on track for publication in the near future. One of the aims is to help the average mapper to generalise their maps.

### **Printing**

The current guidance requires review and a look at what could be done to improve digital printing, taking account of the ISOM revision that will include an enlarged and updated section about printing. The list of approved printers should be reviewed on a regular cycle as several may have changed printing machines, paper and operator since first approved.

### **Mapper Training**

SOC agreed to trial the Introductory Mapper Training material, not feedback to date. EAOA are taking forward the course in February 2015, this will be run by Caroline Louth and Robert Dove. Basically the course is complete and in place, it needs approval and wider dissemination.

### **Web Site**

The mappers' information on the British Orienteering website requires an update and refresh in several areas.

### **Map Awards**

The awards process for maps produced in 2014 should be started by the end of November with a notice in Focus and the web site. There are offers from MAG members to take this ahead.

### **Mappers Newsletter**

The Mappers Newsletter was last circulated in January 2014. It is appreciated by recipients and I have had emails asking what has happened to it. An edition should be circulated when the ISOM revision is published if not before.

### **LiDAR**

The original project document from 2012 should be followed up with guidance on the application of LiDAR for the production of O maps, the data is now available for much more of England and Wales at least and the Environment Agency material continues to be free to non-commercial users. There is more experience of the application of the data as collectively those who are using it have learnt much since 2012 and this should be made available to the wider audience.

It would be very beneficial for MAG to meet, perhaps once a year along with the wider benefits of map conferences/workshops.

With thanks for your support and best wishes

David

David Olivant

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