

## **MORAY SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING PROJECT**

### **“THE WORLD ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015 AND BEYOND”**

#### **PRELIMINARY REPORT**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

1. WOC 2015 and Beyond is a schools orienteering project in Moray administered on behalf of Moravian Orienteering Club by Scottish Orienteering's Regional Development Officer for Moray.

2. The project builds on the widespread interest in orienteering in schools generated by the club's successful partnership with Moray Council's Active Schools Team. The Active Schools Team were equipped in 2010 with a suite of EMIT electronic event equipment to help support school-based activity. Since then, demand for the equipment has escalated to the extent that demand far outstrips supply. With the World Orienteering Championships due to be staged in Inverness-shire and Moray in August 2015, the project will ensure that every school in Moray with an interest in orienteering is afforded the best opportunity to give a high-quality experience of the sport to its pupils during the build-up to the championships. This in turn will generate increased interest in WOC, more participation in the associated 6-Day Event and local club events, and a solid legacy base for orienteering to consolidate its presence as a mainstream school sport in Moray once WOC is over.

##### **PROJECT SET-UP**

3. Presentations were delivered to head teachers' forums in mid-2012 inviting schools clusters to contribute £1,000 towards the purchase of one set of electronic event equipment for each Area Schools Group (ASG). The remainder of the costs, estimated to be around £3,000 per set, would come from external funding with on-going support being provided by the RDO and the club. Five of Moray's 8 ASGs elected to join the project, representing 5 secondary schools and 28 primaries.

4. Tenders were sought from Sportident and EMIT, each producing similar costs. The two systems were evaluated and following strong representations from the club it was decided to go with EMIT. The compelling factors were the ease of use, wide availability of kit elsewhere in Moray, compatibility with the system in use elsewhere in Grampian Region and existing expertise in its use amongst Moravian members. The schools were content to go along with the Club's advice. It was agreed to purchase 5 sets of equipment comprising 20 controls, 2 starts and 1 finish, all complete with mounting plates, metal stakes and control kites. Included with the kit were 32 timing chips, all necessary electronic components and a holdall. Total equipment costs were £16,625.

5. Funding was obtained from 5 sources as follows:

- British Orienteering (£5,000)
- Contributions from schools (£5,000)
- Moray Sports Project Funds<sup>1</sup> (£4,500)
- Scottish Orienteering Association (£2,000)
- Springfield Properties<sup>2</sup> (£100)

6. The equipment was delivered in July 2013 during the Scottish 6 Days Event, and a formal presentation ceremony was conducted at Day 4 of the event at Loch of Boath near Nairn, as part of the official launch ceremony for WOC 2015. This ceremony was attended by many local VIPs and several representatives from Moray schools and the Moray Active Schools Team. The kit was handed to individual schools groups early in the new term. The final set of kit was presented to the Buckie-area schools on 26 September.



<sup>1</sup> A fund set up to disburse money raised by the Elgin Rotary Marafun over several years. The aim of this fund was to provide better sports facilities in the Moray area.

<sup>2</sup> Springfield properties is a large family-run house building company based in Elgin.

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

8. The delivery and presentation of equipment coincided with the traditional schools orienteering season in Moray. Six schools festivals took place during September/October 2013 with 723 children taking part from 35 schools. The new equipment was received in time to be used during two of these festivals.

9. A series of after-school briefing sessions have been delivered to staff in order to demonstrate use and care of the equipment. A Teaching Orienteering Part 1 course is due to be held at Lhanbryde Primary School on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November during the local schools' in-service training period. All 8 teachers currently registered for the course are connected with "project" schools. A Part 2 course is scheduled for May 2014 to enable staff to build on skills learned during previous TO courses and to encourage use of the project equipment. A series of visits to schools in the Buckie ASG, again in association with Active Schools, has been planned for November. All schools in this ASG are new to orienteering and support to these schools is a key priority for the project. One such visit (Cullen Primary) in October proved extremely successful with excellent engagement from staff.

**Did you know?**

sportscotland  
**activeschools**  
MORAY

Moravian Orienteers

scotland  
orienteering

### Moray has a Schools Orienteering League!

In association with Active Schools, Moravian Orienteering Club runs a monthly Saturday League where all school pupils in Moray can score points for their school by taking part. There's a team trophy at the end of the year!

You don't even have to be in the club to take part, but if you do join we can help you improve your skills even more. The events take place in a different part of Moray each month. It's a great way to discover new places while keeping fit and improving your map-reading skills. **Parents can take part too.**

The remaining events for the rest of this year are:

**Sat 12th October—Damaway Castle near Forres (10.15 am)**  
**Sat 23rd November—Brodie Castle near Forres (10.15 am)**  
**Sat 14th December—A mystery venue to be announced later!**

Moravian also run bigger national events but everyone's welcome. The next one is at Rossisle Forest on Sun 3rd November (10.30 am)

[www.moravianorienteering.org](http://www.moravianorienteering.org)

*Orienteering =  
No Ordinary Run*

*Moravian Orienteers =  
No Ordinary Runners*

10. A widespread publicity campaign, funded by Moravian, coincided with the launch of the project and the schools competition season. The campaign focused on the monthly Moray Schools League competition held on Saturday mornings with 1,000 of the leaflets shown adjacent being distributed. The event held at Darnaway on 12<sup>th</sup> October produced a record turnout for the League, with 72 children from 18 schools taking part. One local primary school assisted with the event by providing refreshments. Approximately 15% of the pupils took part. Promotion of the Schools League will continue, supported by Active Schools. Moravian has secured the services of a parent volunteer to take over from the RDO as league co-ordinator. A survey conducted after the Moray Schools Orienteering

Festival has indicated strong support for a Grampian-wide festival. However, the relatively small sample and likelihood that most respondents were keen orienteers suggests that further thought will need to be given to this idea before taking it any further. This will be discussed in more details with the Aberdeenshire RDO and other stakeholders.

11. Moravian Orienteering Club is continuing its policy of providing opportunities for school pupils to develop their organisational skills with the club. A primary school pupil was the course planner for one of the courses used in the October Saturday & Schools League event held at Darnaway Castle. Two Forres Academy pupils will be planning the courses for the Moray & Highland Junior Championships to be held in the spring of 2014 and a Forres Academy pupil is planning the courses for the Schools League event at Brodie Castle on 23 November.

12. A group of parents from Lossiemouth High School intend staging their own event to recreate the Scottish 6 Days and Euromet sprint races, utilising surplus maps left over from the summer. This event, to be staged on Sun 2 Feb, will be a fund raiser for the school's Ethiopia trip, and will use the school's kit combined with the set held by Elgin Academy (the combined kits happen to have the same control codes as used for the original event). The RDO has undertaken to provide support with this initiative, in partnership with Active schools and with assistance and additional resources from Moravian.

13. Two further schools in Moray are having maps made of their school grounds. This will leave Moray with 27 primary schools and 6 secondary school maps from the total of 45/8 schools.

### FUTURE WORK

14. The club, supported by the RDO, will continue to work with Active Schools to promote and expand the already-successful series of high-quality schools festivals held during the autumn term. The long-term aim is to assist schools in creating and running their own events through a combination of staff/pupil effort, especially in secondary schools. The experience that different secondary schools are able to call upon will vary. Some schools already have pupils with significant event skills, but in all cases the RDO will work to support schools who wish to hold events. Moravian will also assist with the provision of specialist IT equipment, and additional EMIT kit if necessary.



The all-conquering West End Primary at the Elgin Schools Festival



Pupils at Cullen PS organising their own download session

15. Moravian Orienteering Club will, wherever possible, continue to build connections through the Schools League. Schools will be offered the opportunities to partner with the club when events are staged in their locality, such as by providing refreshments. School pupils will continue to be encouraged to get involved with

event planning and organisation. The RDO will offer his services during the build-up to the Schools League events to promote interest amongst the pupils and staff. The club are currently planning to stage an event in March 2014 on a new map of an area on the Southern outskirts of Elgin (part of the club's £10K mapping project). The intention is to invite the local primary school (Greenwards) to host the event and to include refreshments as a fund raiser. Greenwards Primary has been a regular participant in curricular schools competitions but not, thus far, in the Saturday Schools League. It is this type of initiative that will help develop school-club links and help to promote the Schools League.

16. Orienteering in curriculum time will be the responsibility of the schools to provide, but the RDO will support staff where requested, particularly those who have attended TOP1 or 2 courses, while they are getting used to delivering orienteering sessions.

17. Moray Council's Physical Education Support Officer, Derek Shepherd, has expressed a desire to work with orienteering concentrating (quote) *"on pathways from PE through Sport and Activity beyond school to clubs etc."* This is a new post within the Council intended to promote the Government's target of two hours of quality PE for every pupil and also to promote Physical Activity and Sport across all education sectors. He will work closely with teachers and providers to promote collaboration and joint working opportunities to improve the links between schools and the community.

18. The RDO will seek the assistance of visiting WOC training squads in visiting schools during the build-up to WOC 2015. It is hoped that elite athletes will be prepared to visit schools and talk to pupils about the sport, and combine the visit with some kind of pupil—organised orienteering activity.

19. A series of articles and reports mentioning the project have appeared in the local press, and will continue to do so whenever appropriate, particularly in connection to WOC2015. Every effort will be made to reinforce the message to schools about WOC2015, reminding staff and pupils of the significance of the project title "WOC2015 and Beyond".

#### FURTHER REPORT

20. A further report will be submitted at the end of October 2014 to assess the short-term impact of the project.

Mike Rodgers

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Scottish Orienteering Association