

The Return of the Map Co-ordinator

Mike Smithard has recently offered to resume his previous role as Map Co-ordinator and the Deeside Committee has happily agreed for him to do so. This means that Mike will be in charge of maintaining the stock of Deeside map files - he will be the **only** source of maps for anyone wishing to plan on, or re-survey, an existing map and must be sent the file and a hard copy of the map after any changes have been made. As he will also register maps (so that mappers are insured by British Orienteering) anyone intending to survey a new area should also contact Mike before starting work.

Mike's article below sets out an overview for ensuring accurate production of event maps; a flow diagram showing the various processes has been added to the Planner's Guidelines on the Resources section of the DEE website.

Barry Barnes

Quality Control for Event Maps

When CAD took over from pen and ink and razor blades in drawing offices and orienteering mapping, it quickly became clear that there was an issue with document/drawing control as changes were easily made, possibly by many people, and not easily tracked with what was 'right' becoming 'wrong' or 'different' and several versions of drawings/maps in circulation all being called the same thing either in their filename or the version number on the drawing/map.



Checks also had to be made that correct versions of parts of projects were being used in the assembly of the final output and files irrespective of their computer filename or quoted version number.

If you are still with me, you may see the application of the above issues applying to both Deeside maps and event maps (those with courses on).

The naming and filing of maps is crucial – the demarcation between superseded, current, draft updated and final updated (which then becomes current) versions has to be clear.

In the drafting and updating of courses, amending/cutting lines, circles and numbers, adding descriptions, adjusting the map layout to suit – all toing and froing between planner and controller and then map printer – there are many possibilities of slips and re-doing of material needing further checking. And then the final printing – does it match the approved drafts?

Whatever the process and care in providing the event maps used on the day, it is the planner's and controller's responsibility that they are correct – and it is the controller's final say as the competitors' representative in the event organisation as to whether they are acceptable.

On the assumption that all an event's maps may need re-printing, it seems sensible that they are printed in time so that they can be checked by the planner and then passed to the controller in the appropriate timescale. They both need to see all maps to be used not just the top copy of each course – print runs can be interrupted, colours may go off, paper slip might occur or print numbers might be wrong. Whatever checks are done beforehand, this is, as far as the competitors and Deeside's reputation are concerned, the only one that counts.

Mike Smithard