

## **Event Officials Newsletters Summary 2005-Controllers and Planners**

### **The powers of the Controller**

The British Orienteering Rules state that: 'The Controller shall be responsible for confirming that the event is organised fairly and in accordance with these Rules'.

There was some concern over what the appropriate course of action was if the Controller thinks the planning is inadequate for the level of event involved. Whilst it is not the Controller's job to plan the courses, it was felt that often he/she should be firmer with the Planner in order to get a high standard of planning, particularly with regard to ensuring the correct length and technical difficulty of courses.

If there are concerns then clearly the first thing for the Controller to do is to sit down with the Planner and the relevant Guidelines and try to explain what the concerns are. However if, after discussions, the Controller and the Planner fail to reach agreement and the Controller still has concerns about the standard of the planning, then the next step the Controller should take is to go back to the Club Committee which is responsible for the event and raise his/her concerns with them. At this point the responsibility then lies with the organising club to help resolve the situation.

### **Controllers from the same club**

Extract from the Appendix C: Event Officials.

- For a level 3 (Regional) Event, a Grade 2 Controller is required. The Controller shall be a member of a different club from that of the Organiser and Planner(s).
- For a level 4 (District) Event, a Grade 3 Controller is required. The Controller should be a member of a different club from that of the Organiser and Planner(s).

There was a discussion about the suitability of using a Controller from the same club as the Planner for level 4 (District) events. Although it was accepted that some Controllers were not willing to travel outside their own club, there is concern that it is much harder for the Controller to take an independent view when their own club is involved in putting on the event. Often they can get too involved with the event, carrying out tasks themselves rather than validating what is being done by.

The recommendation from the workshop was therefore that whenever possible, clubs should use a Controller from another club for level 4 (District) events.

### **Light Green courses**

This subject comes up frequently in the list of complaints received. A Light Green course should always be planned to Technical Difficulty 4 standard. It should not be made easier just because the Green course cannot be planned at Technical Difficulty 5 due to the nature of the area.

If the terrain does not support legs of above Technical Difficulty 4 then the Light Green and Green (as well as the Blue and Brown) must all be planned at the same level of difficulty.