

## BRITISH ORIENTEERING DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

### CDO PROJECT - AN ORIENTEERING FOUNDATION PERSPECTIVE

#### Slide 1 A few words about the Orienteering Foundation

- Registered charity with 6 trustees
- Ambassadors in most other Associations
- Independent of British Orienteering
- Make grants to individuals, clubs or others applying for funding
- Initiate projects of our own
- If you joined yesterday you will have heard of our recent completed project about beginners

#### Slide 2 Why our interest in Club Development Officers?

- The OF is able to take a longer term view about the sustainability of the sport than may be feasible for British Orienteering
- A concern we have is the ageing of membership in the sport, also reflected in club committees
- Membership numbers are declining
- If the sport is to be enjoyed by future generations, there would be benefits in clubs focussing on their own longer term development
- The OF could see how SYO and FVO had benefitted from having a CDO, someone specifically focussed on developing the club
- But in many clubs, volunteers are already stretched

#### Slide 3 What we did

- The OF has funds available to support the engagement of a CDO
- The OF advertised for applicants from clubs for a pilot project to evaluate the feasibility of a paid CDO role
- Two good applications were received and the successful applicant was CLOK who you will hear from shortly
- We agreed to part fund the engagement of a CDO for CLOK for a period of two years, assuming interim milestones appear to be reasonably on track
- The CDO focuses on what the club decides

#### Slide 4 Our aims

- The initial indications are encouraging.
- We see CDOs as a way forward for some other clubs and we want to help where we can
- We have further funding available and which has been earmarked specifically for CDOs
- We are very pleased that British Orienteering are supportive of the work we are doing
- The Development team in Matlock will be collating best practice tools from existing and previous projects to seek to minimise the reinventing of the wheel (e.g. advertisements, contracts, sessions programmes, converting participants to become club members)

#### Slide 5 What do we look for when considering CDO applications

- Each CDO application is considered individually
- Some specific aspects are:
  - Strong commitment from the club
  - Clear objectives including milestones
  - A sound project plan
  - The financial aspects
  - The likelihood of substantial sustainable benefits to the club

#### Slide 6 Concluding remarks

We will be very interested in how CLOK progress and hope to receive applications for support towards a CDO from other clubs