

GVOC Club Report 2018

For the Greater Vancouver Orienteering Club (GVOC), 2018 was a year of looking outward. The club hosted or supported the hosting of three regional and national events, with a combined attendance of over 800 people for these three events: Spring Camp 2018, the Western Canadian Orienteering Championships (WCOCs) and the Canadian Orienteering Championships (COCs).

Key vacancies on the executive team (directors of events, outreach and technology) left the executive spread thin in 2018. A nearly-full executive complement elected and acclaimed at the GVOC AGM on December 9, 2018 bodes well for 2019!

Events:

On the home front, GVOC dialed back local events to accommodate this regional and national work. In 2018, GVOC hosted 8 rather than the regular 10 weekend Why Just Run events on our more complex maps. Both summer “SuperWET” events were eliminated from the calendar, based on feedback from the club volunteers who ran these events in the past, and due to the July (WCOC) and August (COC) events. Club members hosted an impressive 42 Wednesday Evening Training (WET) events over the course of the year, and another dynamic World Orienteering Day celebration in May.

Membership:

In 2018, GVOC membership numbers declined from 2016 and 2017 numbers (Table 1). The membership year 2017 was an exceptional year for the GVOC (discussed below), and so the membership year 2016 has been added to the membership table for better comparison.

The changes in the type, frequency, and advertising of events offered by the club in 2018 are reflected in decreased membership numbers for the 2018 membership year. Overall, and of note, membership renewals have remained steady over the past three years. New membership numbers have fluctuated substantially, and this is also where we’ve seen the decline for 2018 membership numbers; in 2017 GVOC hosted the Mini-Barkley, which accounts for approximately 150 memberships of the new membership spike in 2017.

Over the past three years there has been a relatively equal division between male and female memberships; to date we do not include a non-binary gender option on membership forms. Data is unavailable for family vs. individual membership, but in 2018 we saw a notable increase in participation from several families with young children at events on the North Shore—an area of opportunity for membership and participation in the future!

Table 1. GVOC MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Membership Year	2016	2017	2018
New	360	554*	213
Renew	245	254	251
Male	334 (55%)	412 (51%)	256 (55%)
Female	271 (45%)	396 (49%)	208 (45%)
Total	605	808	464

* Substantial increase in new member in 2017 due to Mini-Barkley event (~150 new members from that event alone)

Mapping

Major highlights for mapping for GVOC included:

- The debut of the new IOCO forest map (!), with over 110 orienteers running challenging Middle & Long courses on the Western Canadian Orienteering Championships.
- Five new sprint maps: Britannia, Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park, Kensington Park, Roche Point, Downtown
- A mapping workshop hosted in May
- Many minor and major map updates for Sprint Camp and our weekly WETs

In 2019 we anticipate more new sprint maps, and a new forest map north of Whistler is well underway.

Training

The club offered and participated actively in a number of **training events** in greater Vancouver and BC in 2018, including:

- Hosting events at Cypress Falls, McCartney Creek and Sumas, geared towards preparation for the WCOs
- High coach and participant numbers in the Sage-hosted McQueen Lake training camp

OAK, **Orienteering Adventure Kids** ran again this spring in April and May, with 25 participants aged 6-13 years old.

- 4 sessions in Vancouver, 4 sessions in North Vancouver
- Support and coaching from at least 7 GVOC club members to have this running
- Planning is underway for the 2019 OAK Season

Areas of focus:

A few subtle shifts that were reinstated or built upon during 2018, that could contribute to volunteer sustainability in future years:

- Building sustainable volunteer pools. Jules and the membership team have built a reliable and fantastic membership team that rotates through registration for events and divides work amongst a larger group. This format is worth modeling for other volunteer roles/teams.
- We brought back the division of labour for Why Just Run (WJR) events, with separate volunteers for Meet Director, Course Planner, and where possible, Controller roles for our events which a) aims to make WJR hosting more manageable and appealing, and b) aims to provide more opportunities for O100-O300 officials to gain experience and log hours.

Erica Lay,
Vice President

Executive team members:

President: Kate Knapp

Vice President: Erica Lay

Director of Events: Vacant, supported by Erica Lay and Robyn Rennie

Permits: Robyn Rennie and Marg Ellis

Treasurer: Nathan Barrett

Secretary: Safder Raza

Executive team members (continued):

Director of Membership: Jules Tough

Director of Mapping: Hilary Anderson

Director of Athlete Development: Adam Woods

Officials training and certification: Marg Ellis

WET Organizer: Emily Ross

Unofficial:

Director of Major Events: Robyn Rennie