

OBC President's Report 2022

2022 has been a year of transition for our orienteering clubs and members as we all make our way out of the COVID-19 pandemic. The highlight for many has no doubt been the return of championship events. The Canadian Rockies Orienteering Festival was a fantastic week of orienteering, with the WCOCs hosted by FWOC nearby in Kananaskis Country outside Calgary, Barebones orienteering in the Crowsnest Pass, and KOC hosting the COCs on incredible terrain in Kimberley and Cranbrook. The BCOCs hosted by GVOC in Whistler are a great way to finish the summer and head into autumn. Big kudos to Kootenay Orienteering Club (KOC), Greater Vancouver Orienteering Club (GVOC) and Foothills Wanderers Orienteering Club (FWOC) for pulling these events together and all volunteers for stepping up after our event hosting routines and volunteer base were decimated by the pandemic.

Sage Orienteering Club (SAGE) hosted another Sage Stomp keeping their uninterrupted string of annual Sage Stomps going. Victoria Orienteering Club (VICO) has encountered some challenges returning to pre-pandemic orienteering but is facing them with creativity. After a long period of inactivity, Cariboo Chilcotin Orienteering Club (CCOC), formerly known as Williams Lake Orienteering Club (WLOC), has resumed orienteering activities with gusto.

In addition to the resumption of major in-person events, clubs are continuing to offer self-directed orienteering activities, often using *MapRun6* or home-grown GPS track analysis software. Many participants, especially those who are very busy or perhaps more casual in their participation, enjoy the flexibility of these self-directed courses, which can be done on a schedule that works well for them. Going forward, there is likely a place for both in-person and self-directed activities as we maintain and grow orienteering.

This year, OBC financially supported the creation or updating of maps for several clubs. A number of maps are being created by CCOC as they get up and running and return orienteering to the Cariboo Chilcotin area. OBC has also provided starter SI equipment to help CCOC get going. GVOC has been hard at work updating and creating several maps. SAGE has been creating a pair of new championship-quality maps in the Kelowna area for a major event next year.

As we've been in a holding pattern during the pandemic, the provincial government, through its *viaSport* funding agency, continued to provide the same funding to Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs) under the same terms as in previous years. This may change in the coming year as *viaSport* has announced they will once again evaluate each PSO this autumn and may make funding decisions based on the results. For this, it is very important for OBC to maintain a total provincial membership amongst all of the clubs of over 1000 orienteers. In 2021, OBC had 1286 members but this year is looking a little lighter for some clubs and we very likely not yet have reached that threshold. Let's look forward to an active autumn with new members!

Orienteering Canada has been rolling out a new national membership and event registration system, with several clubs across Canada making the sacrifice of being early adopters and helping to work through a number of issues. Big kudos to GVOC for their hard work and patience on this front, and for KOC as well for the CROF.

Finally, it's been a year of transition for Orienteering BC as I stepped into the President's position and have been learning everything that Brian Ellis had been so capably doing for many years. A big thank you to Brian for staying on as Vice President to help us through this transition. Additionally, Emily Ross hit the ground running in the Secretary role and Don Haliburton continued his excellent management of our finances. Finally, a sincere thank you to all of the other members of the Board of Directors for all of their time and contributions this year.

Kevin Matrosovs