

## OBC President's Report - 2021

It has been another tumultuous year for orienteering in BC, with the Covid19 pandemic still creating restrictions in almost all sports activities, including ours. Orienteers are versatile, however, and BC clubs have managed to deliver a wide suite of events to their members throughout the year, often using GPS-based track- and time-recording systems such as *MapRun6*. Unfortunately, all formal competitions (including the annual BC Orienteering Championships, and the Canadian O Championships planned for the Kootenays) had to again be cancelled in 2021. However, with high vaccination rates now the norm in most of the southern province, we are looking forward to both of these popular championship events returning to the schedule in 2022. It is noteworthy that, despite the competition restrictions, the Sage Orienteering Club managed to maintain its 30+ years of organizing their annual *Sage Stomp* event, this time at an excellent venue near Salmon Arm. It has also been re-assuring to see that our member numbers rebounded well in 2021, compared to 2020 at the height of the pandemic, when we had dropped to 826 members. As of this date, total OBC membership is 1261.

In recognition of the stress the pandemic has been imposing on provincial sports organizations (PSOs), the provincial government provided a one-time funding bonus this year to each PSO through its *viaSport* funding agency. OBC has been using this new resource to provide 'non-contact' SI timing sticks to all our affiliated clubs for use in training events, and to subsidize production of new orienteering maps both for future competitions and for use by community/school groups. GVOC also organized a mapping clinic this year to train new mappers, and that group has already produced a number of new school-associated maps.

As an organization, OBC operates primarily as a 'policy Board' whose stated mission is "*to foster orienteering in BC as a recreational and competitive sport for life*". To successfully carry out that mission, we need appropriate organizational policies, a number of which have been newly developed or revised this year, including a *Privacy of Information* policy; a *Confidentiality* policy; a policy on *Subsidies for Club Mapping*; a formal *OBC Code of Conduct* and a *Commitment to Safe Sport* policy. The last policy required completion of the "Commit to Kids" training program by all OBC Directors and Officers in 2021. In addition to governance, OBC plays a role as a coordinating body for the various BC clubs. However, the existence of different communications platforms in each club has made it challenging to efficiently communicate with the OBC membership, or to assemble the data needed by our provincial funders and by Orienteering Canada. Orienteering Canada is presently preparing to roll out a national system of membership and participant record management that we hope will streamline these processes both for OBC and its affiliated clubs in 2022 and onwards.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank all the OBC Directors for their many contributions to the smooth functioning of the organization in 2021, with special mention of Don Haliburton for ably managing our finances, Holly Hendrigan for serving as Secretary and record keeper through some rather memorable debates, and Jonathan Bakker for selflessly maintaining our website. You have been a great team!

Brian Ellis