



Hi Everybody

The dust is beginning to settle, so thought this was the right time for a short, and thoroughly inadequate, (but heart felt) **thanks** for your work on WOC.

I've found working with you to be inspiring and I've been consistently impressed at your dedication, perseverance and hard-work. The orienteering community, and our 'out of sport' friends have been amazing. Orienteering's volunteer culture is something very special.

Organising WOC2015 was never going to be easy. It was an extremely complex and demanding event, with a range of pressures that are simply not normally encountered. There wasn't really anyone to learn from, we had to work it out for ourselves. The entire team rose to the challenge and successfully delivered the biggest and highest profile event ever held in the UK – a huge well done.

We tried from the outset to be inextricably linked with the Scottish 6 Days event, and to work very closely with them – we couldn't see any other way of delivering both events successfully, even if that did introduce some additional stresses and strains. In many ways we were the same organisation – certainly that's what we aimed at from a public point of view. There's no doubt we were highly dependent on them – WOC needed S6D in many ways and we were stronger together. Richard Oxlade and his S6D team have been fantastic to work with throughout.

We've also had the support of a great Steering Group – it comprised the local authorities, EventScotland, BOF, SOA and S6D. They've always backed us, and always been positive. They really came into their own on the Nairn roadworks that appeared at the beginning of the week. They could have caused a disaster. A single phone call to Colin Simpson at Highland Council resolved the problem and had them postponed.

Now is a good time to take a step back from the detail of your specific tasks, and look at the big picture. Check out what the orienteering world is saying about us (it's all very positive), and just how big this event was in the orienteering world. It was massive, and we delivered it.

Did we get everything right?. Probably not, how could we have? – it's not as though we get a rehearsal!. However, we should not dwell on that: we did achieve a huge amount and did get almost everything spot on. We set out to be the 'best WOC ever'. I think we might just have got there.

We've got a lot to shout about and be proud of;

- No protests were received (though we have expressed concerns at the Russian relay team DSQ) – a good indication that we got maps, courses and controlling right
- Our volunteer recruitment and management was excellent – a great legacy for the sport

- WOC Office was rock solid and cheery despite a very heavy and demanding workload
- What is generally acknowledged as the best ever live presentation of a WOC
- Great arenas, starts and finish areas
- Faultless (at least from my perspective) IT systems
- A good working relationship with S6D
- Very positive feedback from competitors, public, stakeholders, spectators and others. We may have spotted the gaps, but they didn't!

In conclusion, please accept a massive thanks and congratulations from me. You did it!

(And you can go and lie in a darkened room for a few weeks now!).

Paul