Wintertime – Time for Course-Setting

As soon as the orienteering season has passed, preparations for the next season start. Mapping new areas and updating existing orienteering maps are both major tasks. However, mostly the course-setters are also at work, looking for difficult control locations or picking tricky route-choices. Course variations interchanging short with long control legs, loops, butterflies or map changes promise exciting and varied courses.

In doing so, many course-setters lose the general view of the courses and pose the following questions: are there courses that run in opposite direction to each other in this competition, how many classes are running the same leg, how many runners have the same control, or is a compulsory leg needed and has been forgotten to be added? For the purpose of answering these types of questions but also to increase the efficiency of course-setting, the 11th version of the course-setting module in OCAD was improved.

„Course-Setting Cockpit“

One can analyse the course-setting lay-out with the function “Control Visit Frequency”, which means how often a control is visited and “Competition Statistics”. By looking at tables, diagrams and lists, one can extrapolate among other things how many runners are going to be on each leg, if there are courses using the assignment of the start and finish location, or how high the frequency

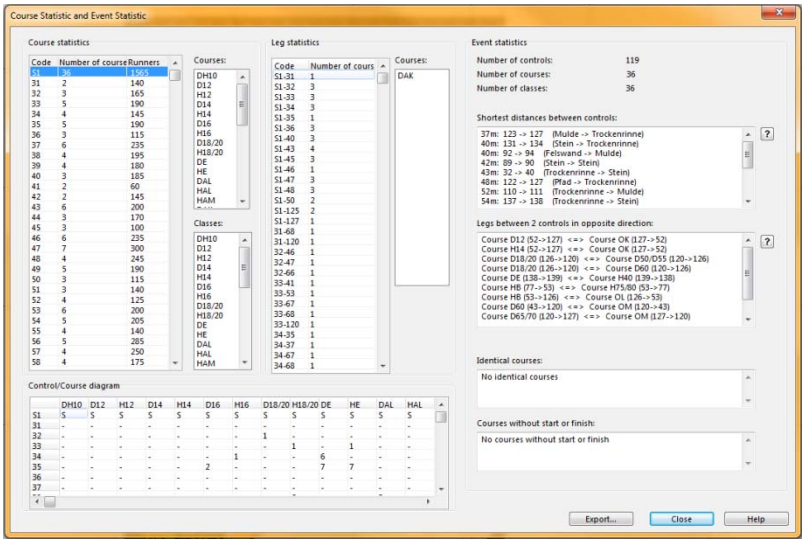

Fig. 1: Course-setting cockpit “control visit frequency” and “competition statistics”.

Fig. 2: If the control number is selected, OCAD 11 shows a thin connecting line between the control circle and the control number.

of visits per control is. Besides this course-setting cockpit (see Fig. 1) as dialogue window, one can also export and print this report.

Automatic Generation of Control Descriptions in Text

The previous version of OCAD 11 already contained the clever function to automatically generate IOF-control descriptions. One clicks onto the control object on the map, holds down the mouse and drags it in the direction of the location of the control flag, then releases the mouse and the appropriate line of the control description will automatically be added with the IOF-symbol. New in OCAD 11, one can generate a text control description automatically from the IOF-control description (see Fig. 3).

31			1m/2m		Kuppe, 1m/2m	Kuppe, 1m/2m
32			2m		Sattel, 2m	Sattel
33			3m		Nase, 3m	Nase
34					Trichterloch	Trichterloch
35					Erdwall	Erdwall
36					Ruine	Ruine
101					Schmaler Sumpf, B	Schmaler Sumpf, Bieg
135					Dickicht, Dickicht, z	zwischen 2 Dickichter

Fig. 3: Text and symbol control description.

Courses for Foot and Ski Orienteering

For foot orienteering, most often the courses are printed onto the map. The map is superimposed in the background for course-setting. For ski orienteering this is a somewhat different matter. The display requirements for ski orienteering stipulate that brown and black map objects and the tracks in green have to be printed over the purple control circles and connecting lines. In order to achieve this, each course had to be imported into the map data and shifted into the corresponding color structure BEFORE printing.
With the newest OCAD 11 course-setting module this is done in a much simpler way: the map data is imported only ONCE into the particular course-setting project. This greatly reduces the time involvment for the printing preparations and avoids mistakes.

Interface for Evaluation Software of Orienteering Controls

The course-setting module has an interface for the evaluation software of orienteering controls. With this module, course data can be imported and exported between the evaluation software and OCAD. Furthermore, OCAD 11 supports the internationally applicable IOF XML 3.0 for the exchange of course information.

Several new functions of the course-setting module in OCAD 11

- Includes course objects such as mandatory legs, finish chute, in severel courses
- Generates text control descriptions automatically
- Relays: even distribution of forking variations
- Course statistics
- Supports the new IOF-XML-version 3.0

Good to know

- Online help course-setting: OCAD-wiki: www.ocad.com/en.wiki
- Teaching video for course-setting: www.ocad.com/youtube