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Katy Dyer
SWOA Secretary
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Dear Katy

Grant to attend IOF Map Commission meetings

I should like to thank the SWOA Committee for the grant of £300 towards my expenses to attend the IOF Map Commission meeting in Helsinki in January 2004.

It must sound slightly exotic to fly off to one of Europe's nicest capital cities. However I would mention that in the past it has been covered in snow and the temperature has been as low as -27C.

I have in fact never been able to walk around the city itself. I get out of the aeroplane and walk to a coach stop; 10-15 minutes on the coach and I rush through the cold into the Hotel to emerge on Sunday morning to go back to the airport and then home via Amsterdam or Paris usually to Bristol.

Global warming seems to be taking place in that the amount of snow seems to be getting less. It is the custom that the IOF Map Commission has a photograph taken during the meeting. These are published on the IOF Map Commission web page. The week before the meeting the temperature was +4C with some rain. However by the time of our meeting a faint trace of snow was visible and the temperature was -11C. Not that we have much time for snowballs or skiing.

We meet at 0900 on Friday hence the journey out on Thursday. We continue all day and finish about 2100. I know because I keep the minutes and make a note. Saturday morning is taken up with a joint meeting with the IOF Council and the other Commissions. At this we consider world wide ideas to promote Orienteering. During the meeting we said good bye to Brian Parker who after 15 years as Chairman of the Environmental Commission was retiring.

Saturday afternoon is taken up with continued discussion of the ISOM revision.

We had had 16 submissions from the member Federations. Again we finished at about 2000. These inevitably had conflicting ideas of how the specifications should be revised. Our task is to produce a specification that can be applied all over the world to hold international competitions that are fair given the terrain may be very different.

I would hope to continue the work on preparing the ISOM this may take another 12-18 months.

Best wishes,

Erik Peckett