

EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at The Priory Rooms, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF
on Saturday 9th November 2019 from 11:40 -15:50

Present: Chris Phillips (Chair), Scott Collier (Board Representative), Mike Cope (Chair - ESchG), Nev Myers, Terry Smith (Chair - ESysG), Ernie Williams (Chair - EOG)

1. Apologies for Absence: Barry Elkington; (Chris Phillips and Mike Cope had sent apologies via their mobile phones for probable late arrival to the meeting due to rail travel difficulties encountered en-route)

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th June 2019:

Accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting not covered elsewhere on the Agenda:

(a) Major Events Conference 2019/2020:

Chris Phillips indicated that it was not possible to hold the 2019 MEC this year but hopefully it could be organised in Spring 2020 by someone other than himself due to non-orienteeing commitments. An Organiser for future MEC(s) is to be sought and a requirement would be use of a reasonably central venue within the UK. CP agreed to contact CEO Peter Hart to arrange, if possible, that the person to be appointed in place of Craig Anthony, who is moving to another UK Sport Organisation, can assist in arranging the 2020 MEC. **ACTION: CP**

(b) Item 4.1.5:

Nev Myers had raised the matter, following an Urban Event in YHOA, of the distinction between 'Competitive' and 'Non-Competitive' and a competitor 'running out of class' i.e. participating on a course other than that for their Age Class and designated as 'Other C' and therefore unable to classify for 'Ranking Points' and effectively non-competitive.

Terry Smith commented that if participants running out of age class and that there was 'Other A/B/C/D/E etc' class available then for Ranking Points to be awarded the orienteers in these 'Other' classes need not be described as 'Non-Competitive'. Also, what is required is for Organisers/Planners of an Event to check the Area Championships Age/Colour Class table and to match this for their Event. Nev Myers agreed to draft a short information text explanation and to distribute to E&CC members. **ACTION: NM**

4. Operational Matters:

4.1 Discussion on reports from members of the Committee:

4.1.i - EOG:

Ernie Williams commented on items from his most recent Report:

(a) Event Officials Training Materials and the availability of same:

After discussion on this topic it was agreed that the currently available materials 2011-2019 on CD needed to be checked against both the requirements for the levels of qualifications for Organisers/Planners/Controllers and the Rules. There was also a need to contact those initially responsible for the production and/or use of 'Training Materials' to be contacted and to request their assistance to upgrade to draft / final version 3.9 of 2020 Rules. A check will also be required for a common file format such as 'pdf' to be used for all documentation. When available, other than the current procedure for application direct to Ernie Williams or via National Office, whereby

Ernie Williams would distribute to Training Course Leaders a CD of all available 'Training Materials', then in future these should be available as required for downloading from the National website 'Event Officials' section.

ACTION: EW

(b) Terrain Suitability Assessment Reports (TSAR) and requirement for Major Event Officials (Organiser(s) and Planners(s) to provide 'O' CVs for E&CC review:

It was agreed that TSARs needed to be returned to E&CC via Ernie Williams by all Grade A Controllers for Level A Major Events, and by Controllers of Level B National Events, and CVs to be returned by Organisers and Planners of Major Events to Ernie Williams for distribution to E&CC members.

ACTION: EW

(c) Appointment of Grade A Controllers for Major Events 2021-2022:

Confirmed as listed:

- (i) 2021 British Middle Distance Championships – venue: Rushmere - Jeff Baker (LOG)
- (ii) 2021 JK Day 1 – venue: Plymouth Hoe - Simon Thompson (HOC)
2021 JK Day 2 – venue: Hayle Towans - Mike Forrest (BOK)
2021 JK Day 3 – venue: Penhale Sands - Tim Pribul ()
2021 JK Day 4 – venue: Towans - Randal Macdonald (DVO)
- (iii) 2022 JK Day 2 – venue: Kenfig (tbc) - Mike Forrest (BOK)
2022 JK Day 3 – venue: Kenfig (tbc) - Mark Dyer (BOK)
- (iv) 2022 British Sprint Distance Championships – venue: (tbc) - Graham Nilsen ()

Further Controller appointments to be undertaken for Major Events in 2021 to 2023 in the period December 2019 to February 2020 prior to the March 2020 E&CC Meeting.

ACTION: EW

(d) Embargo of Competition Areas for British Sprint Distance Championship and JK Day 1 Sprint Event:

It was agreed that this item be left until Agenda A.O.B Item reached in the after-lunch session.

4.1.ii - ESysG:

Terry Smith commented on items from his most recent Report:

(a) Map Group and the appointment of Map Advisers:

Map Advisers, more often than not, were advising on a map received and not visiting the competition area with map in hand, with requests for advice being received from Major Event Planners and Controllers, the majority of whom wanted comments on matters relating to cartography and/or printing. Discussion centred on whether Map Advisers should only be available for the Major Events such as British Championships and JKs, and whether or not the title 'Map Adviser should be changed to 'Cartography Adviser'. It was agreed that the role of a Map Adviser could be clarified by a statement such as "Mapping advice may or could be made available upon written request to the Chair of Map Advisory Group." Terry Smith agreed, with the assistance of MAG, to circulate a 'Rule Change Form' re mapping guidance for Major Event Officials.

ACTION: TS & MAG

(b) Wording of advice re Rules and comment received from Graham Ackland:

Terry Smith reported on 'Action' from March 2019 Meeting item 6.7 re comment received from Graham Ackland regarding the wording of the rules on Map Scales to be reviewed with Map Advisory Group. Graham Ackland had been contacted for further clarification and a 'report back' will be circulated.

ACTION: TS

(b) The detailed JK 2019 Organisers Report from Terry and Diana Smith:

Discussion centred on how best to circulate the excellent summary containing the key points to future JK Organisers and Team Leaders at an Event such as MEC 2020. Terry Smith, as originator of the document, stated that he would undertake a final review of the contents and make the document available for 2020 and 2021 JK Coordinators/Organisers, and also for the Major Events

Consultants Andy Yeates and Helen Errington with responsibilities re 2022 and 2024 JKs. It was also agreed that Terry Smith contact the Major Event Consultants and request that they share the 'Best Practice' contained within the JK 2019 Report as widely as possible. **ACTION: TS**

(c) Actions from Nov 2018 Meeting, Minute 5.3:

To review the current Competition Rule C (BSpOC) and to link this with the comments received from Iain Phillips (Planner of 2019 BSpOC) re 'offset control circles'. Terry Smith agreed that he and Barry Elkington could work together on this matter and report back at a future meeting.

ACTION: TS & BE

(d) Rule Change procedures:

To be discussed as Agenda Item 6.

(e) Map Scales:

To be discussed as Agenda item 4.3

4.1.iii - ESchG:

Mike Cope commented on items from his most recent Report, following thanks being given to him by E&CC members for the comprehensive documents he had circulated pre-meeting:

(a) There are hosts confirmed for BOC/BRC up to 2022, but the areas and dates for 2021 are yet to be confirmed and consequently are of concern.

(b) Hosts and most dates are confirmed for the British Middle Distance and British Sprints until 2023. The British Sprint Relay Championships needs an area in YHOA for 2021 and it is also looking as if they might be in YHOA again in 2022 as part of AIRE's Sprint Weekend after WOC 2022. The British Night Championships is also a concern as, up to the present time, no offers to host have come forward for 2022 or 2023. Currently there is as yet no host for the CompassSport Cup Final in 2022, and the host for 2023 has been confirmed.

(c) The Area Championships are more and more being hosted alongside Events which would be taking place anyway. Unfortunately the Midlands Championships for 2020 has had to be cancelled by the East Midlands hosts due to permission problems and there is currently no obvious replacement host or competition area. The Scottish Championships in 2020 has, unusually, been moved to August largely because of permission problems.

(d) The Home Internationals continue to cause concern as there are difficulties in finding a willing host Club and/or Region but, sometimes very late in the day, a solution is found. Mike expressed his opinion that there could soon be an occasion when one of these Events will not take place.

(e) Two late problems with UKOL 2020 has meant that plans are not, at the present time, quite settled. The Midlands Championships cancellation and uncertainty about the Welsh 6 Days has meant that plans have had to be adjusted to include other Events which initially had not been part of UKOL preparations.

(f) Following requests at a Junior Competitions Meeting in September, ESchG is tending towards having the majority, if not all, of the Major Events in the first half of the year. ESG cannot move on other requests until after other bodies such as Home International Managers and JROS have been able to consider them.

(g) At the meeting mentioned above, the idea of changing round the Heats and Final dates for the CompassSport Cup and Trophy competition has been rejected by ESchG and others. However, because of issues highlighted later in the Report, consideration is being given to having an earlier date for the Heats – possibly back to where they were some years ago.

(h) Mike Cope indicated quite strongly that 'Permissions' had to be highlighted as a major concern, both for ESchG and the sport in general. The situation in the Forest of Dean with no orienteering there from March to June, and restrictions in February, July and August which will probably mean no orienteering, is very serious. For the Forest of Dean, Forestry England will not allow applications more than 12 months before an Event. There is a very real possibility that this is likely to be rolled out nationally and could very well extend to other landowners. Indeed, many Regions are experiencing the same problems which are causing late cancellations and date changes. All our Major Events and many of the Nationals take place between February and July. These access changes are going to have massive implications for oursport. British Orienteering definitely needs to take the lead nationally to find ways around the problems if that can be achieved as quickly as is possible.

(i) There was a discussion of likely Rules changes at the recent ESchG meeting, together with the possibility or probability of the Area Championships becoming Level B National Events rather than Level A Major Events, and there is an expectation that this particular matter can be clarified to all members of ESchG after the November 2019 E&CC meeting or, at the latest, the March 2020 E&CC meeting.

(j) Mike Cope requested if there was any information on a Region able to host JK 2024? Chris Phillips indicated that there is a possibility of WMOA and EMOA working together to make JK 2024 a "workable proposition" and he hoped to be able to report further, either before or at the March 2020 meeting of E&CC.

ACTION: CP

4.1.iv - Board of Directors:

Scott Collier commented on the following matters regarding the October meeting of the Board:

(a) The Board is seeking to recruit an Access/Environment Officer able to work two days per week; an appointment is expected soon after the position is advertised nationally.

(b) The 'Competition Review' has been put on hold until after the completion of the 'Strategic Review'. It is hoped that the forthcoming Club Conference on 16th November will offer an opportunity to discuss and exchange views regarding the 'Strategic Review'.

(c) The Board is reviewing the 'Membership Structure' with a view to bringing in a 'Day Membership Fee' of, for example, £2.00, which would apply to adult non-members entering 'on-the-day' and which would essentially be a payment for Third Party Insurance Cover – this would also aid Clubs in getting new members to join Club/Region/National Federation as it would cheaper for the prospective new member in the long-term.

(d) The Board has undertaken a tender process re Entries and Results for JK Events in 2020/2021/2022 and SportIdent has been awarded the contract.

(e) The Board agreed to approve the British Mixed Sprint Relay as a British Championship Event – initial discussion on this decision took place re the Level of Event as either Major 'A' or National 'B' - it was agreed that 'Level A' would be appropriate at the present time. This decision also led to a lengthy discussion on the draft Competition Rules for the BMSR and a complete review of all current Competition Rules.

4.2 Discussion on draft Rules for the British Mixed Sprint Relay Championships provided by David Rosen & Graham Gristwood:

Terry Smith indicated that he believed this would be a good time to undertake an annual review of all Major Level A Events and to check whether or not any 'Waivers to Rules' are being prepared or being formally submitted. Chris Phillips indicated that he believed that the same competition area being used for one 'Day' of a 'Major Event Weekend' definitely could not be used for the other 'Day'. It was also noted that the awarding of Trophies and Medals would be as for other Major Events and that one of the Classes to be called 'Ad Hoc' rather than 'Open'. It was agreed that the drafting of the 'Competition Rules' for this new competition format was an excellent opportunity to

produce an overall 'in-house' template for the drafting of all 'Competition Rules', and also to provide the opportunity to edit out duplication/repetition of text within not only within the Competition Rules but also all Rules and Appendices. Terry Smith agreed to both review the current draft BMSR document and to contact David Rosen and Graham Gristwood to inform them of the E&CC proposed changes/deletions within their proposed text.

4.3 Map Scales changes requested in relation to the Motion passed at the 2014 AGM:

Tony Thornley was thanked for his very thorough and detailed work on the current 2019 Rules and the proposed redrafted sections of the next edition of the Rules for 2020 and beyond. Terry Smith and Tony Thornley have been working co-operatively on a large number of amendments to the Rules in relation to Map Scales etc following the Motion carried at the 2014 AGM. The intention is to complete their work with the following guidelines:

Map Scales:

Proposed rule and guideline amendments to clarify which map scales should/could be provided, especially at Level A events.

Background:

- 1. The British Orienteering AGM in 2014 passed a proposal which delegated authority to planners and controllers of Level A and B events to determine which map scales to use for older and younger competitors. The proposal was implemented in the rules, but with a presumption for smaller scales which did not reflect the original proposal. The proposal was not consistently implemented in the specific Competition Rules.*
- 2. Despite the passing of the proposal, a number of major UK events have failed to provide maps and courses for older competitors which are clear and legible.*
- 3. Whilst enlargements are now usually provided at Level A events for 45+ competitors, only rarely are further enlargements provided for 65+, despite the continuing decline in eyesight with age.*
- 4. The IOF provides 1:7500 enlargements at WMOC. It is trialling 1:10000 scale at some long distance elite events in 2019.*
- 5. Other countries, notably in Scandinavia, are now providing 7500 scale maps routinely for 65+ competitors.*

The changes proposed are based on the following principles:

- 1. For all competitors, maps and courses should be as clear and legible as possible.*
- 2. Maps should be generalised, in line with ISOM/ISSprOM. (With extracts provided).*
- 3. For older competitors (over 45), maps and courses should, as far as possible, take account of deteriorating eyesight.*
- 4. The rules and guidance should be simple and clear, and allow some local autonomy to cater for different types of terrain, especially for lower level events.*
- 5. Map scales should not be part of the main body of the rules but included in the mapping appendix. Individual event guidance should not incorporate additional advice on map scales - to avoid ambiguity.*
- 6. As far as possible, British Orienteering rules and advice should be consistent with IOF practice.*

Terry Smith and Tony Thornley were thanked for all of their valuable work to date and for the work that will be required to complete their task by the end of the current year, particularly in relation to Appendix D – Mapping. It was agreed that E&CC members would be circulated with the final draft as an email attachment for both consideration and agreement before submission to the Board.

Consideration will also be given to asking the Board and CEO to approve a six month delay in the publication of Rules for 2020-2021 in order for a full review of all Rules, Appendices, and Competition Rules in line with the currently proposed changes taking place. This was agreed as a priority series of actions by the members of E&CC. **ACTION: TS & TT**

4.4 Changes to Start times – request received from Alan Rosen:

Following discussion on Alan Rosen's request it was agreed that Chris Phillips would contact Alan to discuss and firm-up the proposed text with particular reference to applicability at all Major Events, to also contact other interested parties such as the Board, SportIdent, EMIT, Fabian 4 etc to ascertain their views, and to circulate to E&CC members for comments, and to then discuss the agreed final text with CEO Peter Hart prior to final submission to the Board for ratification.

ACTION: CP

5. Major Event Issues 2020 onwards:

Mike Cope had indicated earlier in the meeting his concern, also being voiced by others of the increasing problems re 'Permissions' with examples being given of the Forest of Dean, Longshaw, Shining Cliff, Cannock Chase, New Forest etc. Discussion centred on not only these difficulties but also the link with increasing costs of 'Access Charges' being reported across the UK. There was also the on-going discussion, review, and implementation of 'Strategic Plans' for the availability and use of 'Parks and other Open Public Spaces'. ESchG was continuing to seek to have a common date acceptable to Regions and Clubs for all CompassSport Cup & Trophy Heats annually. Can Clubs locally and Associations regionally be more proactive regarding benefits of 'O' sport re health and fitness for all.

ACTION: MC, ESchG, and E&CC members

6. Progress on Rule Changes to be effective from 1st January 2020:

During discussion it was agreed there was a need to have all proposed changes to Rules as agreed by E&CC to be publicised via 'News' section of National website and to await comments. Terry Smith and Chris Phillips had both discussed the topic of 'Rule Changes' with CEO Peter Hart and how all changes, both minor and major, can be fully and successfully implemented pre-2020 and during 2020. Terry Smith asked all present to note that there would be a substantial set of Rule Changes as detailed in the 'Description of Change' sheet following the 'Title Page' in the new set of Rules v3.9, to be published either on 1st January or 1st July 2020, depending on the decision to be agreed by the Board. Comment was made about the possibility that future Major Event Conferences would be an excellent opportunity to use those present as a 'sounding board' for Rule changes proposals. Chris Phillips agreed to send all changes that had been discussed as individual papers at the March, June, and November meetings in 2019 to Terry Smith to ensure that all items had been taken account of and fully discussed and accepted or referred back to the Proposer, and that Terry Smith would then be able to oversee the changes being made to the current v3.8 for 2020 v3.9.

ACTION: CP & TS alongside E&CC members

7. Any Other Business:

(a) Embargo of Competition Areas for British Sprint Distance Championship and JK Day 1 Sprint Event:

Ernie Williams, following the 2019 British Sprint Distance Championships held at Loughborough University, reported on comments received regarding the use of embargoes at large venues such as University campuses and the, albeit small, number of competitors who had been unable to compete whilst others at the same University or with very recent full-time and part-time attendance, had been able to compete, possibly entering via a Club other than 'Closed club' LUOC. Comment was also made of Elite competitors and others now using easily available technology such as 'Streetview', 'Google Earth' and other PC and mobile phone Apps to create screen-based training opportunities in real-time detail. It was agreed that all competitors at British Championship and other Major and National Events regularly needed to be reminded that having knowledge of the competition area within the past two years shall declare themselves 'Non-competitive'. The discussion concluded with the agreement that the word 'embargo' should be removed from

sections of the Rules where appropriate and that it required unequivocal statements that clearly indicated that all competitors who will have had prior knowledge of a competition area within a specified 12 or 24 month period shall, without fail, declare themselves to be 'Non-competitive' when entering British Championships and other Major and National Events.

ACTION: CP and E&CC members

(b) Query received from Organiser of 2020 Southern Championships re M21E/M21 Long:

The recently received query questioned whether if an M21E class needed to be provided if there was a small number of pre-entries, especially with seeding also being necessary? It was agreed that the 2020 Organiser, and future Organisers of Championship Events so affected, could contact Chris Phillips to seek an agreement for non-provision of an M21E class and that all M21s are able to enter and compete in the 'M21 Long' class at the Event.

ACTION: CP

(c) Map Printing:

Terry Smith, on behalf of ESysG and MAG, indicated that the current concern was the on-going decision to be made re laser printing as against the Rules requiring offset litho printing, statements in Appendix D, and the developments in printing technology that enabled high quality laser print standards. It was agreed that Terry Smith, on behalf of and with the agreement of MAG, prepares a Rule Change sheet for submission in 2020 prior to the March E&CC meeting.

ACTION: TS

8. The date and venue of the next meeting of E&CC:

Agreed to be held at The Priory Rooms, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6AF, on Saturday 7th March 2020 from 11:00 - 16:15 with refreshments available from 10:30.

ACTION: CP

There being no further business Chris Phillips wished all present a safe journey home and closed the meeting at 15:50.