

Board of Directors

Sunday 12 February 2012 18:00-19:00

Conference Call - Minutes



Board attendees: Lyn West (LW); Philip Baxter (PB); Neil Cameron (NC); Scott Collier (SC); Mike Forrest (MF); Mike Hamilton (MH); Judith Holt (JH); John Woodall (JW)

Minute taker: MH

Apologies received: Henry Morgan (HM) away on vacation; Martin Ward (MW)

1. Membership & Levy Scheme

LW thanked PB for organising the consultation, staff for their input of the statistics and other directors for their inputs via email.

LW stated that the email from PB had highlighted the issues and that the aim of the discussions was to take the decisions necessary to draft the membership and levy proposal to go to the AGM. Arguments for and against some of these decisions have already been presented in the email discussion. There was no benefit to be gained from rehearsing these again. The need is to focus on the decisions required to progress this matter.

At the Board meeting on 14 December 2011 the following decisions had been taken:

- Single tier of membership
- Membership fee should be set to a nominal level of around the £5 level
- Individual membership units only, that is family membership would be removed as a membership category
- Senior membership should be 21 and over, junior under 21
- 3 juniors to count as 1 senior for levy purposes
- Single rate of levy to count across all participants at all events

The issues that had been raised since the Board meeting were discussed and the following points agreed:

1. A single tier would apply, that is no National or Local.
2. A membership fee of £5 which was considered to be the lowest level feasible is to be included in the proposal. This results in all membership fees being lower across Local and National members.
3. A junior membership fee of £2 to be included. This indicates that we believe there should be a significant differential between senior and junior membership.
4. Seniors to be defined as those people in the MW21 age class (21 or older) in the membership year and juniors at the MW20 or below age class (20 or younger in the membership year). This was a point that had caused contention during the email discussions.
5. Since this definition coincides with competition definitions of 'junior' it was agreed that the membership category should be called 'junior member'.
6. Junior to senior membership should not be a ratio and freedom left to future AGMs to change the ratio although it was noted that a significant differential should be maintained.
7. No 'student' membership category should exist as the cost of membership is now so low.
8. Levy, there should be a single level at all events except for those events covered by the 'Partnership Agreement'.
9. Levy, the ratio of 3 juniors equating to 1 senior for levy purposes should be maintained.
10. Levy, the 'student' category of levy fee should not be maintained, although it was recognised that clubs may wish to differentiate between groups of participants by modifying entry fees. SC argued against this proposal however his view was not supported.

This review of the membership and levy scheme was recognised as a root and branch review and all matters were open to discussion.

In this context it was noted that the multiday events had a significant impact on the income generated and on the level of levy required to be set, particularly the Scottish 6 Day event. Currently the levy from multiday events (S6D, Croeso, Lakeland) is split 50:50 between the organising body and British Orienteering. The BOF component is ring fenced in the Development Fund with the Development Committee awarding grants to clubs/associations – there are criteria and a bid process. The question was raised as to whether this is the most effective use of the British Orienteering component of this money?

1. The 50% of the levy returned to the associations is of great value to those associations. It was agreed that the return of the 50% should be continued.
2. The new levy scheme will require a significantly lower fee being collected for British Orienteering.
3. Members may consider the 50% of the levy fee paid to British Orienteering being of greater benefit if it is used to reduce the levy fee. Initial consideration is that such a use may reduce the levy by as much as 10p although this remains to be confirmed.

It was agreed that this matter would be raised with SOA, NWOA and WOA who host the multi-day events.

- LW to speak to SOA
- NC to WOA
- JW to NWOA

MH and the staff to confirm the figures applying to this matter as soon as possible.

Membership & Levy Proposal - Bottom line:

A budget neutral position should be adopted where the income generated from membership and levy is £208k. On this basis:

- Membership to be Senior £5 and Junior £2
- Levy £1.30 – provided the risk assessment based on this figure is completed

Risk assessment might include: use of reserves if it proves necessary; the potential to increase participation.

Board members concluded the conference call at 19.05.