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COACHING NEWS Coach Education Dec 2007

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COACHING – A GREAT ROUTE CHOICE!

Welcome to this latest edition of Coaching News

As many of you will be aware many changes are occurring in the world of coach education and in particular in British Orienteering's training of coaches and the related training of Tutors and Assessors.

We have therefore decided to devote this edition of Coaching News solely to that topic and to the work that is underway in Coach Training within British Orienteering.

There are many exciting changes happening and we hope that this News will help you to understand what is in preparation.

Keith Marsden
Chairman of Coaching Committee

Background

Much of the work that is underway can be traced back to a Government report of 2001, the Plan for Sport. One of its key conclusions was that action on coaching was a priority and accordingly it established a Task Force to look into the needs of coaching in UK and this Task Force proposed the establishment of a 'National Coaching Certificate'. (The title was subsequently changed to the 'United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC)')

The plan was;

- to create a five-level UK-wide consistent framework of Coach education and training across sports.
- To implement it in full in 20 sports and have introduced the concept to a further 10 sports by 2006

The first 20 sports, known as the Phase 1 and 2 sports, were given grants to support the implementation of UKCC.

Phase 3 sports, which includes orienteering, were promised support on the preparation of a detailed Delivery plan and such a plan was subsequently produced by British Orienteering in January 2007.

Unfortunately because of delays in Government and UKsport funding was not forthcoming and therefore we were only able to do limited development based on funding provided by British Orienteering.

Next steps

British Orienteering's first step was to consider the 'market place' for a range of new courses, to draw on its experience over the years especially the experience it had gained by developing its Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Orienteering (L2CCO) in collaboration with 1st4sport qualifications and then to decide its needs for the future.

It was clear from this review that UKCC itself was aimed at the 'sports' coach and that there was a need to provide a range of courses to satisfy the 'participation' area largely represented by Schools and Outdoor Education centres.

It was therefore decided to develop two pathways, the UKCC sports coach pathway and the British Orienteering (Teaching) Pathway. We were fortunate in having in place the first step in our Teaching pathway in the shape of the highly successful Young Leaders Award which could become the bottom rung of our Teaching ladder.

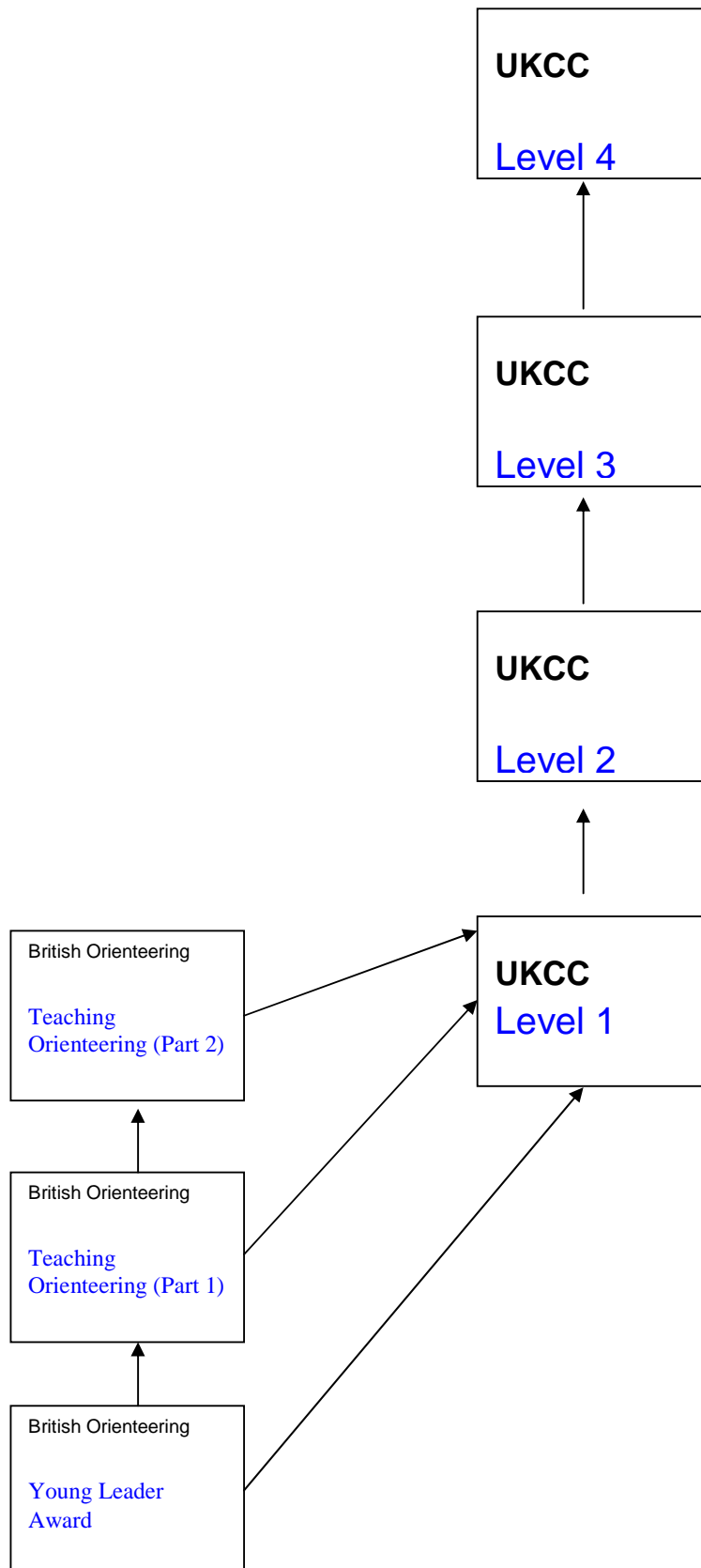
Clearly the participation and sport pathways need to coexist and that there needs to be the opportunity to transfer from one pathway to the other.

The next page shows a diagram of the proposed Coaching Pathways:

COACHING PATHWAYS

British Orienteering

UKCC



Teaching Orienteering

It was decided that British Orienteering should begin its new developments by concentrating on the production of the new Teaching courses.

Celia Watkinson and Pauline Olivant have over the past 6 months drawn on the considerable experience of the British Orienteering Tutors currently presenting the Level 1 and Level 2 (L2CCO) awards and have produced two courses

- Teaching Orienteering part 1 (TOP1)
 - o 'Introduction to Orienteering'- it is aimed at **all** Teachers and others wishing to introduce Orienteering regardless of the age they will be teaching
 - o It is a one day unassessed course
- Teaching Orienteering Part 2 (TOP2)
 - o 'Developing skills' - this course is an extension of the Part 1 course for Teachers and others wishing to teach more advanced techniques up to Key Stage 4 and GCSE
 - o It is a one day unassessed course and all candidates will have undertaken the TOP1 course prior to TOP2

Both courses have been successfully piloted and final resources are in preparation.

Our next step is the retraining of existing Tutors in order for them to be able to present the new courses. But more of retraining later.

United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC)

Let's step back a minute to answer a couple of questions.

What is UKCC?

The UK Coaching Certificate is an endorsement of sport specific coach education. It ensures that coaches are delivering the best available coaching to athletes and performers at all levels. The UKCC recognises the role of the coach, from recreational to professional level.

How will it benefit coaches?

- it raises the profile of coaching
- it is a UK wide recognised qualification
- it provides up to date coach education
- it increases the opportunities for personal and career development
- aligns the player and coach pathway

The last point is particularly significant. At a time when funding support relies more and more on the success of that sport on a world stage the production of top class Coaches is a necessary preliminary to the production of top class (World Class) athletes.

The NSG

Over a year ago British Orienteering, as required by the procedures surrounding UKCC, established a National Steering Group (NSG) The NSG is made up of 15 representatives from British Orienteering covering the areas of

- Home Country representation
- Schools/ outdoor education
- Clubs and elite coaching

It is the role of the NSG to monitor the UKCC (and British Orienteering TOP1 and TOP2 courses.) The NSG meets 3 times per year but spends considerable time reviewing documentation through e-mail contact. Amongst other things the NSG has responsibility for the sign off of the Technical content of all UKCC awards prior to their submission for Endorsement.

Where are we now?

Despite the lack of outside funding and with the considerable help and experience of Pat Mee we have progressed to the point of offering our UKCC Level 1 course up for Endorsement. Endorsement is the standard process undertaken by SportscoachUK and skillsactive to ensure that the courses presented by National Governing Bodies (NGB's) comply with the standards and guidelines set for UKCC awards.

The Endorsement process can take up to 3 months to complete and is likely to involve further interaction between British Orienteering and SportscoachUK.

Clearly the need to conform to standards and guidelines drawn up to cover the awards to all sports means that British Orienteering has developed documentation which in an ideal world and perhaps to an outsider may seem to be unnecessarily complex even repetitive. However let me assure you that our experience with L2CCO has enabled us to prepare documentation which is much slimmer, better structured and hopefully much more readable than its predecessor whilst still conforming to the standards laid down for it.

As we complete Level 1 then we will move on to Level 2 and to Level 3. All this takes time but we are hoping to have prepared the material for these Levels during 2008.

The standards guiding the content of Level 4 are still being worked on by the Phase 1 and 2 sports and we hope that they will be developed by the time we are ready to develop the British Orienteering Level 4 award.

Incidentally there is no longer a UKCC Level 5 award so at some point British Orienteering will need to consider the position and future of our Level 5 coaches.

At this time it is worth acknowledging the considerable help given to British Orienteering by the Phase 1 and 2 sports who have readily shared their knowledge, experience and documentation in the development of UKCC with us.

Retraining of Tutors and Assessors

In parallel with the above developments we have to consider the retraining of our existing work force, Tutors and Assessors.

A questionnaire has been circulated to all existing Tutors and Assessors in order to ascertain their wishes for retraining. Do they wish to continue Tutoring or Assessing? If so at what level? Do they want to Tutor both the British Orienteering courses and the UKCC courses or just one?

It is assumed that all T/A's who wish to continue in their current roles have by now returned their questionnaire to the Coaching Manager, Vicky Thornton. It is therefore also assumed that those T/A's who have not returned the questionnaire no longer wish to continue this role and will be removed from the current T/A list at the end of January 2008.

The responses are now being collated and will be used to establish a (re)training programme so that we can move forward with the implementation of both the new British Orienteering courses and the UKCC courses as they become endorsed.

For those wishing to Tutor/Assess UKCC courses we will additionally be providing awards in Tutoring (Certificate in Tutoring in Sport (CTS)) and in Assessing (Introduction to Assessment Practise in Sport (IAPS)).

Details of dates for retraining will be published and sent out to those T/A's who have submitted their questionnaires.

Existing Coaches

Much of what we have been talking about above is gearing up for Training new coaches into the UKCC awards.

For existing Coaches, who are not Tutors or Assessors we will be devising a plan to allow them to move into a UKCC qualification.

In the short term those with existing British Orienteering Coaching qualifications will continue to practise under the existing conditions but ultimately, and this may take a number of years, it is expected that all coaches who wish to carry on coaching under the terms of the British Orienteering Licence to Practice will need to go through some retraining and possibly reassessment in order to continue.

Details of this have yet to be worked out but we will keep you in touch, through Coaching News, as our plans are discussed and agreed by NSG.

Summary

- The United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) is a nationally recognised series of awards aimed at bringing consistency and recognition to the Coaching of sports in the UK.
- British Orienteering has developed two one-day courses, Teaching Orienteering Part 1 (TOP1) and Teaching Orienteering Part 2 (TOP2) aimed at providing an introduction to the teaching of Orienteering by schools, outdoor centres and other youth organisations. These are not assessed awards.
- British Orienteering is developing a series of Coaching awards which will be endorsed to UKCC standards. These awards will conform to the 4 levels of the UKCC awards and will be on the National awards framework. Candidate coaches will be able to transfer from the British Orienteering (TOP1+2) coaching pathway to the UKCC pathway.
- Tutors and Assessors of the current British Orienteering awards will be required to update their training for all the new awards.

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- British Orienteering has been awarded a grant by UKsport to enable them to continue the development of UKCC Levels 1,2 and 3 .

Tutors retraining courses for TOP1 and TOP2 courses:

DATE	VENUE
February 9 th Saturday	In the Midlands – Training Centre (to be confirmed)
March 4 th Tuesday	In the North – West of Middlesborough – Centre (to be confirmed)
April 26 th Saturday	In the South – Reading - Centre (to be confirmed)

If you are a Tutor who has returned a questionnaire hoping to attend one of the above courses then please make a note of the day in your diary. Application forms (confirming venues and cost) will be distributed by January 21st to all Tutors who have indicated that they wish to receive training to deliver TOP1 and TOP2.