

Senior Competitions Group

Minutes of meeting



Held on Saturday 3rd September 2011
at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham
commencing at 12.00 noon

Events Committee is asked to note:

Item 10: Ranald to report the discussion on Map Scales in Complex Areas to Events Committee and Map Group, Barry to Rules Group

Item 11: UK Masters Cup

- Ranald to contact Caroline Povey/Mike Hamilton re flyer and write article for CompassSport about the 2012 competition
- Ranald to contact Caroline Povey and Mike Hamilton about future sponsorship of the competition
- Ranald to send 2012 programme and Rules to Caroline/Laura for the British Orienteering website

Item 12: Ranald to ask Mike Hamilton to put something in the Club Newsletter, Focus and send a communication to Associations about split starts and other 'family friendly' issues.

Item 13: 1. Barry to arrange for the Guidelines B and C to be completed and published
2. Rules Group to keep in mind the option of providing an additional colour to replace the Very Short Green course

1. Attendance, apologies and Chairman's opening remarks

Mike Cope	Chairman, Fixtures Group
Barry Elkington	Chairman, Rules Group, WMOA
Ranald Macdonald	EMOA, Chairman
Ursula Oxburgh	EAOA
Andy Robinson	SEOA
Richard Sharp	SCOA
Patrick Smyth	NEOA
Dick Towler	NWOA

Apologies:

Graeme Ackland	SOA
Philip Baxter	NIOA
Scott Collier	SWOA
Brian Hughes	WOA
Andrew Kelly	YHOA (no response)
Ed Nicholas	Development Manager

2. Declarations of Interest

The declarations of interest remain unchanged

3. Notification of Any Other Business

- Ursula asked that consideration be given to the inclusion of a new 'colour' in the Event Guidelines

4. Minutes of Meeting of 8th January 2011

These were accepted and the actions were reviewed:

- Events Committee Review – SCG's views were fed into the review through the SCG minutes and at the Events Committee meeting on 18th June 2011
- UK Masters Cup – approval was received for the competition rules from Events Committee and the Board. A review group was established and a programme for 2012 developed.
- 2011 CSC/T final organizers (DVO) informed of need to have non-competitive runners run either before or after the competitive runners.
- Relays questionnaire – no progress due to pressure on British Orienteering office. Relays to be reviewed by Events Committee.

5. Committee Structure (previously Governance) Review

There was discussion about the recent paper and it was noted that SCG would now cease operation in June 2012.

The process of appointing the Chair and membership of the new Events and Competition Committee was discussed.

6. Competition Review

The discussion reflected that from a Senior perspective not much was changing apart from the establishment of the National League.

There was a feeling expressed that British Orienteering seemed to be taking responsibility for competitions for which it did not have ownership e.g. the JIRCs. It was felt appropriate for SCG to comment on Junior competitions as, being parents, they had interests. By absorbing Junior competitions into the National league it was felt that the social dimensions were being ignored.

In general, the National League needs much more detail on the geographical and time spreads.

There was discussion about the proposal to have a finals weekend, possibly as part of the British Sprint and Middle Distance Championships in the autumn. However attendance at this event should not be compulsory, e.g. by offering double points.

SCG would still like relays to be dealt with as a major concern, not least the issue of shorter courses for older competitors.

ACTION: SCG members to raise the review with their Associations and feed into the Association and Club Conference.

7. Major Events Group

A report was received from Dave Peel.

SCG supported the proposal for changes at the British Sprint Championships for small classes to keep the qualifiers competitive.

8. Association and Club Conference, Saturday 15th October

The Membership and Levy proposal was discussed. The basic principles in the paper were agreed with, not least that:

- membership structures and levy mechanisms should be easy to understand, simple to administrate (sic) and easily scalable, and that
- all who participate should contribute to the costs of the sport, regardless of membership status

Dick expressed surprise that no attempt appeared to have been made before now to work towards a merger of the two membership tiers. It now made sense to go to one level of membership with the membership rate slightly higher than the current local level.

It was agreed that in an ideal world, for simplicity there should be a flat levy on all participants at events (and activities?)

Action: SCG to feed into the discussion through their associations and at the conference, if attending

9. Whole Sport Plan

In response to the statement that 'there should be less bureaucracy' Barry asked what people really object to or is it more an excuse not to bring about change?

It was felt that more could be made of successes in the sport at all levels, not just the Elite, though they were important as role models.

Life could be made easier for Organisers by, for example, giving easier access to databases so that league results can be compiled from rankings. This is likely to happen in the future.

There was a discussion about volunteers and the need to recognise that time available and enthusiasm can vary.

The perception of the British Orienteering Board is still largely negative. It needs to be seen as supporting people and to sell itself better to the membership, which it should see as its customer base. The perception is that the Board sees ordinary orienteers as 'employees' who it can tell what to do rather than doing what clubs and associations want of them.

Action: SCG members to feed into Association discussions and the Conference, if attending

10. Map scales in complex terrain

Dick introduced the paper, the basis of which was generally agreed by the meeting. The difficulty of getting variation to rules is seen as Map Group hiding behind IOF rules when they should reflect the wishes of competitors in the UK and adopt our own guidelines as, it was said, has been done in other countries and at some events such as the WMOC.

Reflecting on the roles of Controllers at Level A and B events in the future, Dick suggested this should also include assessing the most appropriate map scale

and that clubs should have a right of appeal to Events Committee, or its replacement.

Barry said that as these events were run based on national guidelines, the approach should be to change the national guidelines rather than devolving rule variations to the individual events.

Tony Thornley has proposed that British Orienteering should produce a Map Scales Guideline or Appendix, allowing planners and controllers to use appropriate scales for the terrain and competition. This proposal was accepted by the meeting.

Action: Ranald to report the discussion to Events Committee and Map Group, Barry to Rules Group

11. UK Masters Cup

Review of 2011: whilst this year's events have not yet been completed, there is a general view that the competition has gone down well, that people are generally against a Final because some people cannot commit to attend and that there is still not full awareness of the competition amongst potential competitors.

Action: Ranald to send the SCG's thanks to Eddie Harwood for his work this year

Programme for 2012: This has now been agreed and most organisers have confirmed the inclusion of their event in the competition. Scott is chasing the final few.

Action: Scott to contact final few event organisers

A couple of the dates are incorrect – the BNC is 25th February and NOT the 22nd; the Lincoln City Race 2nd September and NOT the 4th.

Action: Scott to correct dates on spreadsheet

Publicity for 2012: It was agreed to hold the prize giving at the British Sprint/Middle weekend in March – need to check with EBOR and CompassPoint.

Action: Ranald to contact CompassPoint and EBOR

An A4 sized flyer for the 2012 competition should be mailed out with the December Focus as well as an article in CompassSport.

Action: Ranald to contact Caroline Povey/Mike Hamilton and write article for CompassSport

Sponsorship issues: The feeling in British Orienteering is that the sponsorship deal with CompassPoint does not bring any direct financial benefit to them, though increased numbers will lead to higher levy income.

British Orienteering will be asked to take on finding a sponsor for next year, in time to be included in the flyer.

Action: Ranald to contact Caroline Povey and Mike Hamilton

Rules, scoring and eligibility: following discussion about split points for ties, particularly winners of events, it was agreed to stick with the current approach and retain the rules and guidelines as they currently appear on the British Orienteering website, except that there will be 18, instead of 19, events.

Action: Ranald to send 2012 programme and Rules to Caroline/Laura for the British Orienteering website

12. Split starts/family friendly measures

Ed Nicholas had asked us to discuss this as it affects many Senior orienteers with families. The discussion broadened out to consider a number of issues,

The original issue was that we need to encourage clubs to consider carefully how they provide for families in terms of split starts – normally untimed/open second starts, the distance to starts for young (and old!) competitors and whether family parking/transport can be provided if there are long walks to assembly and/or Starts/Finishes. Clubs should also be encouraged to explain why they cannot meet these needs if they are unable to do so. The meeting agreed that good practice should be developed and shared so that the sport continues to be seen as family friendly.

It was also important that event flyers/web details contain information about separate starts for seniors/juniors so that families can plan their arrangements.

Action: Ask Mike Hamilton to put something in the Club Newsletter, Focus and send a communication to Associations.

13. Any Other Business

Revised Guidelines B and C for 2012: Barry had circulated draft amendments before the meeting, explaining that Rules Group had been asked to compile two tables for Level B events, depending on the number of participants. One issue raised is that Very Short Green now appears instead of Short Green in the table for smaller events when some Associations had already announced Short Green as part of their leagues.

There was a discussion about the various ratios in the Middle Distance Guidelines and Barry acknowledged some possible errors which he would have checked.

Action: Barry to arrange for the Guidelines to be completed and published.

Provision of a new colour: Ursula asked for a new colour to be provided in place of the Very Short Green, such as Indigo or Purple, though the latter is sometimes used as a very long TD3 course. It was agreed that now was not the appropriate time but that it would be kept in mind.

Action: Rules Group to keep in mind the option of providing an additional colour to replace the Very Short Green course

14. Actions and reporting:

Item 6: SCG members to raise the Competition Review with their Associations and feed into the Association and Club Conference

Item 8: SCG to feed into the membership structure and levy discussion through their associations and at the conference, if attending

Item 9: Whole Sport Plan -SCG members to feed into Association discussions and the Conference, if attending

Item 10: Ranald to report the discussion on Map Scales in Complex Areas to Events Committee and Map Group, Barry to Rules Group

Item 11: UK Masters Cup

- Ranald to send the SCG's thanks to Eddie Harwood for his work this year
- Scott to contact final few event organisers for 2012

- Scott to correct dates on spreadsheet
- Ranald to contact CompassPoint and EBOR regarding the prize giving at the British Sprint/Middle Distance weekend in April
- Ranald to contact Caroline Povey/Mike Hamilton re flyer and write article for CompassSport about the 2012 competition
- Ranald to contact Caroline Povey and Mike Hamilton about future sponsorship of the competition
- Ranald to send 2012 programme and Rules to Caroline/Laura for the British Orienteering website
-

Item 12: Ranald to ask Mike Hamilton to put something in the Club Newsletter, Focus and send a communication to Associations about split starts and other 'family friendly' issues.

Item 13: 1. Barry to arrange for the Guidelines B and C to be completed and published

2. Rules Group to keep in mind the option of providing an additional colour to replace the Very Short Green course

13. Date and Venue for next meeting

Saturday 7th January, Birmingham