

BRITISH ORIENTEERING
ELITE COMPETITIONS GROUP

**INFORMATION IN THESE MINUTES IS PROVISIONAL;
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE OVER THE
VARIOUS SERIES AND SELECTION RACES IN DUE COURSE.**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday June 5th 2007 at 169 musters
Road, West Bridgford**

Present: John Palmer (Chair), Dave Peel (Senior Lead Coach), Peter Guillaume (Fixtures), Jon Cross (Senior Selector), Pauline Olivant (FCC Coordinator), Mark Saunders (UK Relay Coordinator/British Seeding), Barry Elkington (Event Standards), Hilary Palmer (Coaching/Junior Selector), Derek Allison (Programmes Director/Chair Senior Selectors), Dave Harrison (IC Chair/JK Seeding) and Gareth Candy (GB Junior Squad)

Apologies: None

1. Minutes of the 2006 meeting

The minutes were approved.

2. Matters arising from the minutes.

Dave Peel to source prizes for the UK Cup and UK Relay League, both to be presented at the UK Cup Final. **Action DP**

Mark Saunders to source Relay Trophies. **Action MS**

3. Review of 2007.

The double header weekends were favoured and particularly the British Elite Sprint/Middle had been a success although the distribution of medals to the wrong athletes in the M/W20 class was a disappointment. Future British Elite Middle/Sprint races must continue to focus on the elite, there should not be an addition of lots of extra courses. It is an opportunity for other orienteers to run against the Elite. The event must be kept simple with few classes to reduce the chances of mistakes.

Action JP

Ed Nash's UK Cup website had been good.

There was concern that although there was knowledge of the Lyn West Chaired Fixtures Working Group; no one knew who was involved and specifically who was presenting the views of the Elite competitors. As one of the three "pillars" in the Federation's Vision it would be expected that the Elite voice would be strong within the Group. **Action JP**

Attendance at UK Cup and UK Relay League were probably as expected with the Harvester venue in Cornwall and the clashes with the Nordics,

BEOC Long not being a selection race.

There had been a problem with control placement in the British Championships and the course length at the SROC WRE had been 30% too short.

As the JK Relay Open course entry level had not gone up in response to the reduction in course length maybe this decision should be revisited in the future.

Peter Guillaume requested that any information received by the British Orienteering Office about future elite competitions should be forwarded to him.

Action DA

4. Elite Fixture List for 2007

It was agreed that the British Elite Long would be in conjunction with BOC on 19th April at Culbin.

The British Middle would be on 5th April at Tamworth.

The British Sprint would be on 6th April at Warwick.

UK Cup 2007

It was agreed that the following ten races would comprise the 2008 series:

March 21	JK	South East	Sprint
March 22	JK	South East	Middle
March 23	JK	South East	Long
April 5	British Middle Champs	Tamworth	Middle
April 6	British Sprint Champs	Warwick	Sprint
April 19	BOC	Culbin	Long
May 17	JOK Chasing Sprint	SCOA	Middle
June 6	WOC selection races	Bridgnorth	Sprint
June 7	WOC selection races	Bridgnorth	Middle
June 8	WOC selection races	Brown Clew	Long

Notes:

It was decided not to include the British Night, Trail O or MTBO races.

The JK Sprint Race was not to be included in the overall JK Race. The 2007 Sprint Race format was considered to be satisfactory.

WOC selection race venues are yet to be confirmed. The Sprint race will take place on the afternoon/early evening of the Friday as usual. No permissions have been sorted out yet. Areas to be identified and embargoed as soon as possible preferably by the end of June.

Action DP/DA

Future Champions Cup

It was agreed that the following races would comprise the 2008 series:

March 9	Sarum National Event	Hinden	Long
March 21	JK	South East	Sprint
March 22	JK *	South East	Middle
March 23	JK	South East	Long
April 5	British Middle Champs	Tamworth	Middle
April 6	British Sprint Champs	Warwick	Sprint
April 19	BOC	Culbin	Long

*The JK would include an elite class for the 17-20's with the Saturday being a Middle distance race, running with 21's. The 18's Trophy's being awarded to the best placed 18's in the 17-20 Elite Class. Those running the M/W18L would be eligible for 'lower' FCC points. Barry to inform the JK organisers.

Action BE

World Ranking Events 2008

The 2008 WRE's will be JK Middle, JK Long and one race from the WOC Selection Race weekend to be decided.

Action DP/PG

It was decided not to have all three WRE's over the JK weekend.

UK Relay Series

This would consist of the British, JK, Scottish and the Harvester.

JWOC Selection Races

It was agreed that these would be at the Future Champions Cup Final over the weekend May 3rd and 4th in Yorkshire.

Senior Home Internationals.

Will be held in Scotland over the weekend 25/26th October. The clash with the OMM was noted.

5 Qualifications and Eligibility.

BE Long, Middle and Sprint selection and seeding.

Mark Saunders agreed to continue. See BOF website for guidelines.

JK selection and seeding.

Dave Harrison agreed to continue See BOF website for guidelines.

UK Relays League

No problems had been experienced with team declarations. SHUOC were aware that they were non competitive at the British Relays for the UK Relay League..

Mark Saunders to write up the rules/guidelines for publication.

Action MS

The 2007 changes in points awarded in the UK Cup are to continue; more athletes receive points.

There was a request that all the Rules, Guidelines and Scores be easily accessible from the new British Orienteering website. **Action DA/CP**

UK Cup

Dave Harrison to be available for seeding advice for all UK Cup races.

2008 UK CUP Final/Special Selection Race.

It was recognised that these races normally use a different start allocation process from the UK Cup guidelines, and so agreeing the mechanism for these races was delegated to the Senior Selectors with the direction that the mechanism should be 'fair'. 2007 procedure to be monitored, selectors able to allocate '10 wild cards' to the late start block.

British Sprint Qualification

Discussion took place over the qualification mechanism for the British Elite Sprint Race; the format was reiterated in that it was desirable that the athletes have to race well in the qualification to get to the final.

There was a request that there should be a gap between the A final and all the other races to ensure a spectator presence. Guideline to be changed.

Action BE

British Elite Middle Race

M/W20. The existing rules were confirmed in that the fastest 'under 20' runner wins the race even if they are from a lower age group.

The gap between the Elite Race and the other classes need not be so great as in 2007, i.e. other runners should be allowed to start in the forest before the last Elite finisher.

FCC Rules

The rules to be changed as follows:

Each competitor will count their best scores, up to a maximum of 3. If a race is cancelled or voided the following will apply: best 3 scores from 6 races (if 1 is lost), best 2 from 5 races (if 2 of the 7 are lost).

The Final - the 15 highest-scoring qualifiers from each of the four classes: M & W 18 and M & W 20 will be eligible to compete in the Final.

Due to the length of the FCC Day 2 final it was felt inappropriate for M/W16's to run in the FCC Final; they would therefore continue not to be included in the points scoring. Steps would be taken to ensure that International Equity Policy was not breached either by re-wording Guidelines or clarifying the Equity Policy.

If there is a tie in the scoring the UK Cup rules will be used; that is a count back system will be used. This means that the runner with the higher single race score(s) will be placed ahead. In the case of all counting scores being equal, non-counting scores will also be considered.

Consideration to the FCC becoming a 17-20 Elite class would be made

following the JK 2008 experiment with such a class.

6. Implementation

Elite Advisers are available for all UK Cup and FCC events. It was agreed to be more pro active in offering Dave Peel as an advisor to hosts of the UK Cup races. Peter to contact clubs involved to offer seeding and advice.

Action PG

It was noted that both the ECG and the British Orienteering Map Group support the survey of areas suitable for printing at 1:15,000 with an enlarged scale for the older and younger competitors. Many clubs and event organising committees are demanding inappropriate detail on the maps which is resulting in a difficulty in printing the maps legibly at 1:15,000. The quality of some of the cartography on some of the maps printed at 1:15,000 has also caused some concern. Map advisors, Event Operations and Elite advisors to continue to try to get the message across to BOF Council and Mike Hamilton.

Action JP

Major Events Panel

Although the work of Mike Richardson was recognised; it was considered as essential for the Federation to have an effectively working Major Events Panel with a number of members; one of whom must have responsibility for the effective running of the Elite Events and the coordination of the UK Cup. The problems in 2007 have illustrated that there is a great need for a 'major events advisor'.

Action JP

Major events Conference

Consideration should be given to someone putting the case for using the Elite advisors at the British Orienteering Major Events Conference.

Action DA

Publicity.

Ed Nash to be asked if he will continue to run the website for the UK Cup.

Action JP

Mark Saunders to be asked if he will continue to run the Relay League website.

Action JP

7. Plans for 2009 onwards

BOC 2009 was scheduled for SCOA in March; this would be acceptable but there were doubts as to whether it would be a selection race as it was early in the elite season and the level of attendance may be affected by this.

It was expected that the British Middle and Sprint would be a double header in EMOA.

A request that British Elite Sprint venues to reflect the requirements of that years World Championship race, e.g. a City sprint

Any Other Business

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is planned for June 2008.