

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 Friday June 12th 2009

Present:

Members: John Palmer (Chair), Dave Harrison (Chairman of IC), Peter Guillaume (Fixtures), Nev Myers (Coaching), Barry Elkington (Rules Group), Pauline Olivant (FCC Coordinator), Dave Peel (UK Cup Coordinator), Jon Cross (Senior Selector), Liz Furness (Junior Selector), Gareth Candy (International Programme Director)

Invited Members (non-voting): Mark Saunders (Relay League, British Champs Seeding), Mike Forrest (Chairman of Major Events Group)

Apologies: None

1. Minutes of the 2008 Meeting

The minutes were approved

2. Matters Arising from Minutes

None

3. Review and Issues 2009

BEOC Long and FCC Finals

Re-action to change of BOC date by ECG a bit slow but a satisfactory outcome with well attended, well presented race held at the Forest of Dean. Event arenas for FCC Middle Final (in particular) and BEOC were not ideal and should be more highly prioritised for future Major Events and Elite races. FCC Finals weekend could be added to list of Major Events. It was recognised that organisers took on the BEOC event at relatively short notice.

Change of WRE

Change of third WRE race from Selection race to Scottish 6 Days, Day 1 was the best possible outcome.

Quantity and Quality of Entries for UK Cup/FCC

There has been increased participation in both the rounds and final of the FCC. UK Cup participation has been high due to association mainly with British Championship races.

BEOC Sprint

One of the best elite events of the year, good event arena, commentary, spectator viewing and competition.

BEOC Middle

Event arena was not ideal. The effort of LEI to make things work under severe restrictions was outstanding.

4. Elite Fixture List for 2010 and 2011

BEOC Long 2010

To be held in conjunction with BOC Cannock Chase May 2nd. It was noted that this clashes with Tiomila which may affect elite entries. A strong field is still expected.

BEOC Middle and Sprint 2010

Sprint to be held April 18th at Chorley town centre. Currently no area confirmed for Middle distance on April 17th. Preferred option is to have Elite and Age Class Middle Championships in the South Lakes. Second Option is to have Elite only Middle Distance in the South Lakes. There was strong support for a weekend of elite races in the North West April 17-18.

UK Cup 2010

The current purpose and role of the UK Cup now that the BEOC Long, Middle and Sprint have all become established and popular races was discussed. It was **agreed** that a survey of UK Cup participants should be done to gather evidence on its success and future direction. It was **agreed** that in order to be more proactive in setting the direction of the UK Cup and having an influence on fixtures and locations of UK Cup and other Elite races a longer term approach is needed. In 2009 a draft programme requirement for 2012 needs to be agreed and in 2010 a draft programme for 2013.

It was **agreed** that a working group of GC, JC and DH is formed to determine the target event format and structure requirements for the UK Cup and Elite Events for 2011 and 2012. The group will report back to ECG by **July 31st** with a final report being submitted to PG (Fixtures) by **October 12th** so that events to meet the format and structure can be sought pro-actively at the Fixtures meeting on October 19th. MF (Major Events) is to be informed at each stage. **Action GC/JC/DH**

It was **agreed** that the following eight races would comprise the 2010 series with a possible ninth.

March 27	FVO Middle Distance	Scotland	Middle
March 28	FVO Long Distance WRE	Scotland	Long
April 2	JK	South West	Sprint
April 3	JK	South West	Middle
April 4	JK	South West	Long
April 17	British Elite Middle Champs	North West	Middle
April 18	British Elite Sprint Champs	North West	Sprint
May 1	British Championships	Cannock Chase	Long
May 3	UK Cup Final*	West Midlands	Sprint?

*TBC with Walton Chasers **Action DP**

WREs 2010

It was **agreed** that the final decision on the location of WREs should rest with Major Events Committee but that both ECG and international committee must be consulted so that the events fit with the elite international programme.

It was **agreed** that it is recommended to Major Events Committee that the 2010 WRE's will be March 28 FVO Trossachs Event, JK Long and either the JK Sprint or the JK Middle. The latter will be decided after consultation with the JK Organisers.

It is **strongly recommended** that British Championships should in the future be held as open events allowing them to be selected as WREs. (*Events Committee agreed to refer this to the Board for decision*)

It is **recommended** for 2011 that two days of the JK and a British Championship race (if open) be selected as WREs.

UK Relay Series 2010

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

Future Champions Cup 2010

Problems were reported with fixing the date and location of the FCC Final weekend and as a result it was not possible to confirm the rest of the series. The preferred Option for FCC Final is in Scotland 24-25 April.

Draft FCC programme

March 6	Middle Distance	North Wales	Middle
March 7	Welsh Champs	North Wales	Long
March 21	Midland Champs	East Midlands	Long
April 2	JK	South West	Sprint
April 3	JK	South West	Middle
April 4	JK	South West	Long
April 17	British Elite Middle Champs	North West	Middle

It was **agreed** that the best 3 races to count for qualification to the final.

It was **agreed** that a working group of GC, EF and PO formed to finalise the FCC programme for 2010 and to the format and structure requirements for FCC Events for 2011 and 2012.

The group will report back to ECG by **July 31st** with a final report being submitted to PG (Fixtures) by **October 12th** so that events to meet the format and structure can be sought pro-actively at the Fixtures meeting on October 19th. **Action GC/EF/PO**

JWOC Selection Races 2010

To be decided when the FCC programme has been finalised. **Action GC**

WOC Selection Races

To be decided by International Committee after further consultation. **Action GC**

Senior Home Internationals

The event will be hosted by SCOA, November Classic weekend 6-7 November.

Junior European Cup

This is due to be hosted in Great Britain in 2010 but currently nobody has responsibility for the event. To be brought up in AOB at Events Committee. (*Raised at Events Committee and under consideration*)

5. Qualification/Eligibility Rules

Elite Classes – selection and seeding

New Guideline Drafted and applied in 2009.

Prizes and seeding

The principles of seeding and prizes for events with age groups other than 21s running the same course (eg British Middle) were discussed. It was **agreed** that implementation will be delegated to a working group of Jon Cross, Barry Elkington and Mark Saunders and to be added to the guidelines.

Action JC/BE/MS

UK Relays

Question over NOC/LEI neighbouring club alliance and agreed that rules were applied correctly and in future similar applications should be accepted if it is to the benefit of competition in the UK Relays. The principle of clubs using the rule to ensure that top juniors could secure competitive runs was considered acceptable.

6. Implementation

Relationship with Major Events Committee

Mike Forrest explained that it has been an interesting time. The new role had resulted in some bumping and resettling. The aim is to be more strategic than has been possible so far which in the past has resulted necessarily largely in fire fighting. What Major Events needs from ECG is a clear brief about what we need from the Major events on an individual or group basis and then Major Events will take it through to the organisers hosting the events. Dave Peel commented that there have been no meetings yet of the Major Events Committee which has been very disappointing as has made it difficult for briefs from elite competitions being communicated.

It was acknowledged that it was important that the domestic elites (sub-elites) views are taken in to account and that it was the ECG responsibility to make sure this happens.

Elite Advisors

The question was raised about the role of an Elite Advisor if there is an IOF Event Advisor appointed to a WRE.

Now that IOF Event Advisors are being appointed by Major Events it is anticipated that they will also take on the Elite Advisor role for WREs. Major Events will also appoint Elite Advisors for all British Championships, Area Championships and UK Cup races. For UK Cup races which are not Major Events, JEP will take on the role of appointing Elite Advisors in consultation with DP.

There is a need to find more suitably qualified Elite Advisors **Action MF/ECG**

The early appointment of IOF Event Advisor/Elite Advisor and involvement including site visits is considered crucial. The Elite Advisor should act as a mentor helping Level 1 Controllers to develop and progress towards becoming Elite Advisors and IOF Event Advisors.

Feedback on successes and problems with Elite Advisors needs to be collected.

Events Committee need to have a clear idea of the role of the Elite Advisor, have input and agree to the process.

The Role Description for Elite Advisors will be forwarded to Mike Forrest who will ensure that any IOF Event Advisors who are appointed to WREs are aware of this role and will carry it out in addition to their IOF Role. New IOF Event Advisors will be asked to take on the dual role.

Role of Fixtures and Major Events for WREs

Fixtures

Liaising with ECSG each year to determine what events are to be WREs the following year.

Major Events

Liaising with organising clubs so that they are aware and agree and advising on any other WRE issues? Arranging appointment of IOF Advisors. Completing the WRE registration forms

General

Noted that JK will normally be at least one WRE

Publicity

A large vote of thanks was **agreed** for Ed Nash and Mark Saunders for all the work they have done maintaining the UK Cup and UK Relay league websites and scoring. Dave Peel was also thanked for initiating the UK Cup in 1997 and subsequently acting as co-ordinator – for a total of 12 years.

Scott Collier has agreed to take over the UK Relay League and Mark Saunders has drafted some rules and planning the handover. **Action MS**

Jon Cross to approach some people to take over the UK Cup organisation and will come back to the ECG if he is not successful. **Action JC**

BOF will be asked to host the UKRL and UK Cup pages on their server. (*Agreed at Events Committee*)

7. Plans for 2011 and on

British Elite Sprint 2011 and onwards

There is a clear picture of what is wanted for the British Elite Sprint distance Champs, with heats and finals and only a small number progressing into the top final to make sure there is competition and pressure in the heat races. ECG **strongly recommends** that this format for the Elite Sprint Champs is continued in the future if the event is to be combined with an age class Sprint Championship.

Seeding

Jon Cross to continue JK seeding and Mark Saunders continue British Champs seeding.

8. Any Other Business

It was **agreed** that John Palmer continues to Chair the Group for 2010.

Date of Next Meeting – June 2010

cc, Neil Crickmore, Dan Halliday, Mike Forrest