

Events Committee

Minutes

18th June 2011



Held at the Comfort Inn, Birmingham

1. Attendance, apologies and Chairman's opening remarks

Mike Forrest (MF)	Chairman
Barry Elkington (BE)	Chairman, Rules Group
Dave Peel (DP)	Chairman, Major Events Group
Mike Cope (MC)	Chairman, Fixtures Group
Ranald Macdonald (RM)	Chairman, Senior Competitions Group
Sue Marsden (SM)	Chairman, Junior Competitions Group
John Palmer (JP)	Chairman, Elite Competitions Group
David Olivant (DO)	Acting Chairman, Mapping Group
Helen Errington (HE)	Events Manager
Ian Webb (IW)	Development Committee representative International Committee representative
Mike Hamilton (MH)	Chief Executive

Apologies: Helen Errington, Events Manager

The Chair welcomed David Olivant as the Map Group Acting Chair

2. Declarations of Interest

No additional declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 6 November 2010

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed as a true record.

4. Notification of any other business

To hear of any items that members may wish to discuss under Any Other Business

MH asked that the anti-doping policy be added and that it could be dealt with under Board matters; this was agreed.

5. Review the action list from the previous meeting

Updates to the actions of the previous meetings:

- a) Seeding lists: ECG has set up a working group lead by Jon Cross including Neil Crickmore, Mark Saunders and Martin Ward in an attempt to simplify current elite event seeding arrangements. The same issue is to be discussed at the major events meeting next week. SM stated that this was not a problem for junior competitors. It was pointed out that there may be a need to balance the work given to the volunteers organising an event with the issue of fairness for competitors.
- b) Relays: It was agreed that there is a need for a separate piece of work to identify the issues raised by relays and how they may be addressed. There are two significant issues; the first is the need to consider whether class

combinations, course lengths and physical difficulty need amendment (particularly for older competitors). However there is also the wider question of the overall position and need for relays and what the demand is for them?

SCG is to consider the matter of length of course and physical difficulty, as there may be some short term fixes required, even before the wider implications of change are reviewed. Map Group needs to consider the appropriate map scales to be used and how the clarity of maps can be improved.

Major Events Group will consider setting up a relay working group to determine the need for relays. {Post MEG meeting note: It was agreed that this was a wider issue than purely with major events and so should be a matter addressed by Events Committee.}

Once a brief is developed it will be circulated to all for comment.

- c) UK Cup: the matter of where the related web site is hosted was discussed and MH will update members once the work to develop the British Orienteering web site for events is progressed.
- d) List of licensed planner and organisers is now on the web site within the database section and can be seen by club and association officials.
- e) Mapper accreditation scheme – discussions on this are on-going.

6. Board Meeting Reports

MH informed the committee that the Board had ratified the abolition of the British Orienteering Anti-Doping Policy and procedures and had endorsed the use of the UK Anti-Doping Policy and Procedures. The necessary changes to the web site are on-going. It was agreed that a reference to Appendix D: Anti-Doping was left and linked all users into the UKAD Policy statement.

This was not a change that had been made casually but was one that was required of British Orienteering.

7. Operational Group reports

Home Internationals

It is clear that this is not the responsibility of Events Committee. However it was recognised that issues are sometimes raised with the Committee or one of its groups. No report to consider.

Elite Competition Group (ECG)

Criteria for the selection of World Ranking Events are to be considered by MEG. ECG has made recommendations for 2012 to MEG.

The group will be making some feedback on the governance to the Board.

Concern was expressed about FCC races no longer being used for international selection and the potential impact on the event.

It was noted that there is a need to revisit the matter of course lengths. Some championships may not require an elite course. Gareth Candy and DP are to consider this matter and make recommendations to the Group.

Senior Competitions Group (SCG)

A report was submitted. UK Masters Cup programme has been drafted for 2012. It is 18 events with 8 counting to the final results; there will be no finals weekend. SCG applauded for getting the UK Masters Cup up and running. Need for a review at the end of 2011.

It was pointed out that there is a need to consider sponsorship as an issue that is wider than the Masters Cup only.

Junior Competitions Group (JCG)

A report had been submitted to the last meeting that had been cancelled. However in the meantime much of its content has been superseded.

An updated version of the rules for JIRC has been submitted for Events Committee approval.

These were discussed and several issues raised:

- Eligibility of participants? Which association does a participant compete for? At the moment an individual makes a decision and appears to have freedom to elect to compete for any

association.

- 'regions' is used throughout the document, should it be 'associations'? Agreed that it should be association with an introduction in the rules stating that 'region' refers to association.

Rules Group

Feedback has been given to HE regarding the procedures for rule production.

The monitoring of the quality levels has raised awareness that at level B there are deviations around the courses staged and the age class competition. BE stated that there will be further information available in the RG minutes.

Discussion re eligibility to be a British Champion; RG recommendation is that it should be passport or long term residency.

Fixtures Group

Scheduling of Major Events: The planning document is available. This includes all the A and B events that Fixtures Group tries to ensure are happening and scheduled. On a second sheet the events are listed in date order for 2011 to 2014. Blanks and items in red show where we have nothing or where there are queries. Most events are in place for 2012. Although the JIRCs and BSSC are in red, they should be OK. Two of the Home Internationals are still scheduled (see below). There are still no offers for the Harvester in 2012 and beyond, but it is hoped that the 2011 event will be so impressive that a volunteer may come forward.

Most events for 2013 and 2014 are scheduled, at least provisionally. Biggest concerns are BNC for 2013, Harvester for both years, and the Home Internationals.

Other B events: Fixtures Group is now on timetable for getting other B events into the calendar. 2012 was scheduled at the meeting last March, except for a couple of enforced changes to get major events into the calendar. The first part of 2013 will be resolved in October. Clubs do seem to have got the message that B events are needed in the calendar early. There is work to be done with the Event Managers to help monitor the standards at B events. The full list of International, A and B events scheduled for 2012 is available. There is a similar list for 2013 but the B events are not confirmed yet and are far from complete.

Care will need to be taken to avoid clubs being awarded Level B events if they have not delivered the standards for such events.

Junior Events: As requested by JCG, a change takes place from 2013 with the YBT Final moving to July. The JIRCs will move to September. It has been necessary to have some clashes with Junior Events e.g. YBT rounds on dates that are not ideal and BSSC clashing with JHI. This is inevitable when there are so many competitions for juniors.

Home Internationals: It is very difficult to get these into the fixtures list in advance. It varies as to whether they are held as a separate event or tagged onto something else. They do concern a relatively small number of people but adding an important date late into the calendar does cause problems for some. An additional problem is that Wales is becoming concerned about having to run a Home International in three years out of every four. Fixtures Group did request that the concerns are brought to the attention of Events Committee, but it is not clear who has the authority to do anything about them. It was agreed that they need planning earlier by the Home Nations in order to be placed sensibly in the schedule.

Working with MEG, SCG and ECG: Fixtures Group should work with MEG to schedule Major Events but MEG has the final say on their suitability. In reality there seems little chance of having several bids to choose from for any given event, so it is often a case of just taking what is offered.

Information has been supplied to SCG and ECG to help them sort out their leagues. No problems for the most part as existing events are used. The exception is the UK Cup/Relay/FCC Finals which will this year be a separate event.

Fixtures database developments: After the production of a list of requests from Fixtures Group, one member of our group has been working with staff at the British Orienteering office to improve the fixtures database. Good progress is being made, and early indications are that we will have a much better system for input to and output from the database. Once it is up and running, we should be able to encourage better use of the database.

Newsletter for Club Fixtures Secretaries: After the March meeting of Fixtures Group, a newsletter was produced for club fixtures secretaries. It was intended to highlight gaps in the

calendar which could be filled, and to get various bits of information to them. It is hoped that this initiative will improve communication between NFG and club fixtures secretaries.

Competitions Review: Apart from continuing to try and spread the big events in terms of geography, timing and terrain, nothing has been done by Fixtures Group regarding the Competitions Review. Attempts can be made to implement recommendations once they are clarified and confirmed.

Concern over the Governance Review: Members of Fixtures Group are concerned at the implications of the Governance Review and specifically what it means for the Group. We await further developments.

Map

The appointment of David Olivant as Chair of Map Group was ratified.

Major Event Maps

- Map Group review of 2011 Level A events maps.
 - o Map Group was asked to assess these but is unable to provide a comprehensive response as there is nothing in place to obtain the map file and we are dependent on competing at the event to see the map. A procedure is required, both for Level A and Level B events.
- Survey of Championship Event Maps 2011. Published 31/5/11 on website.
- Compass Sport Cup Final
 - o The Map Advisor process has identified a desire for the CSCF maps to be at 1:10000 for all classes. Map Group does support this, our understanding is that the intention for the CSC Final to be at Level A is to enhance the prestige of the event rather than impose the Level A scales. Further details below.

WMOC Map Scales: Rules Group has proposed that the recommended map scale for Long races for M/W35/ 40 is changed to 1:10,000 as this scale is used for up and coming WMOC events. There is no support for this from Map Group as there is no technical reason for the change and the 2011 WMOC guidelines state that the normal scale for M/W35/ 40 is 1:15,000. Whilst these guidelines do allow exceptions, Map Group's view is that this alone should not lead to an overall change in GB; any change should follow consultation and agreement between IOF Foot Orienteering and the IOF Map Commissions. It was pointed out that IOF is not requiring the delivery of WMOC maps to their own standards; a continual cause of concern. This is an issue that British Orienteering should refer back to the IOF to clarify.

Appendix H: A revised version was submitted for comment and approval in April. However this revised version had been overtaken by the Event Guidelines published in January 2011 and Appendix H is being further revised urgently with consideration given to reference the event guidelines to streamline the process.

Map Advisor Scheme: The Map Advisor scheme is on-going following improvements in the procedures from Robert Dove now in place. It will take some time for these to be fully embedded and the scheme fully evaluated.

Accreditation of Mappers:

- Mappers' accreditation to be based on grades and letters: Grade A mapper – Level A maps.
- Submissions are being received from mappers; the procedure needs to be clarified. The method of deciding on the initial grade is under discussion.
- The development of syllabuses for training is ongoing.

Development: Digital mapping data such as LiDAR is becoming more widely available and can enhance the mapping process, potentially saving survey time and increasing accuracy of ground features including detailed height information under the tree canopy (contours). The Map Group project aims to compare the various types of digital data and to provide guidance to mappers. Funding discussions are in hand.

Major Events

Meeting has not yet taken place and is scheduled to be held next Saturday.

8. Rules, Appendices and Competition Rules

There is a need to ensure that group meetings are scheduled so they can consider rule changes, pass them to RG for them to be written and then for RG to pass them on to EC for ratification. Unless meetings are scheduled to fit this need there will always be a problem with timing of getting rule changes approved in a sensible time scale.

The issue of embargos was raised and in particular the problem of embargos preventing clubs running events on their best areas. It was pointed out that clubs can still use embargoed areas but that participants have to make decisions about whether competing in them will prevent them from competing in future major events.

Appendix J: Badge Scheme; Development committee have suggested some changes which RG will take and implement. EC members approved the principles behind the changes.

9. Governance Review

There was considerable discussion regarding the Governance Review paper that had been published on behalf of the Board.

The significant points made during the discussion were:

- a) The paper had been poorly presented and more thought into the way the ideas were communicated could have avoided much of the antagonism caused by the paper.
- b) The importance of democracy in the decision making of British Orienteering should not be underestimated.
- c) The need for association representatives on groups was argued about with arguments being presented both for and against such representation. It was pointed out that association representatives are not the only solution to improving communications between the Committee, associations and clubs. In fact the current system of association representatives is not working effectively in communication significant matters.
- d) It was suggested that there is a need to outline the Group structure that supported the work of E&C Committee before it is formed, although this was disputed during the discussion.
- e) Some Groups may need association representation in order to function effectively.
- f) The need for clarity of the terms of reference was emphasised as something that, if improved, could alleviate some of the current problems.
- g) There also needed to be clarity over the role of association representatives so that people understood what this was.

In discussing suggested ways forward, there was agreement that it is appropriate to proceed with the appointment of a Chair of the new Events & Competition Committee but that the makeup of the committee should be delayed until after there had been a discussion about the place and role of association representatives. There was general agreement that Events Committee is not functioning effectively and that a review is needed to address this. It was also noted that changing the structure alone wouldn't address all the problems as the people and how they perform their roles has a considerable impact on the effectiveness of a committee or group.

The Chair stated that these views would be presented to the Board.

10. Competition Review

There was considerable discussion regarding the Competitions Review paper and the following points made:

- a) There is a need to protect the junior competitions where the social needs of the juniors require competition that is separate and away from their parents.
- b) It is important that competition is designed to meet the needs of juniors so as to keep them engaged with the sport.
- c) The Home Internationals are for the selected competitors and as such are important to a small number of people.

- d) Within the structure there should be encouragement for innovative events, competitions, formats and planning. This is important if we wish orienteering to develop. An example of this is the IOF micro event.
- e) The multi day events staged in August each year should be able to be a part of the National O Series and not excluded from it.
- f) More should be made of the Level C and D events; this is an area of competition that is working well and an opportunity to congratulate those responsible.
- g) It will be important that a new generation of volunteer event officials is trained and supported, without them there is an ever growing aged population of key volunteers. Good practice in this work to train and support new volunteers must be promoted.

MH to modify the paper as necessary and will circulate as soon as it is drafted.

11. Event officials update on training & licensing

The Committee was updated progress with the register of event officials:

Controllers: grade A & B audited and now on the database. Controllers Grade C to be audited by Rules group members.

Organisers: all graded and club fixtures secretaries are doing updates and sending in changes. This is a bit patchy though and will need a re-launch in September.

Mappers: see Map Group report.

Event safety workshop - over 18 courses have been staged this year with 255 trained and 43 club tutors arranging club based workshops. Plans for the next phases of training are in draft and the question of how more training might be able to be delivered locally need addressing. The cascade idea of using club tutors to run Event Safety workshops has been well received on the whole and HE has recommended that consideration be given to extending this principle to other training needs.

12. Events Managers Update

DP updated members on the work that is currently being undertaken by the Event Managers.

13. Any Other Business

No other business was raised.

14. Reporting and Actions

The following items to be brought to the Board's attention:

- a) The matters related to the Competition Review
- b) The views of members of the Events Committee regarding the Committee Structure review
- c) The appointment of David Olivant as Chair of Map Group

15. Dates and Venues of Meetings

Dates for 2011: 12 Nov

The Chair closed the meeting at 16:30.