

Events Committee

23 February 2008



Meeting of the Events Committee held on **Saturday 23 February 2008** at the Carrs Lane Centre, Birmingham

The Board is asked to APPROVE:

No matters were raised at the meeting that required Board approval

The Board is asked to NOTE:

1. Events Committee and the sub-groups are working to resolve the practical matters to implementing the Events Structure Review recommendations and will update Board members as soon as is feasible.
2. Events Committee will review the procedures used to agree decisions and communicate decisions of the Committee and sub-groups.
3. Major Events Committee is being established and will commence functioning for events in 2009 but will not influence events in 2008.

Events Committee

Minutes

23 February 2008



Meeting held at the Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham

1 Attendance, apologies and Chairman's opening remarks

Lyn West (LW)	Chairman
Barry Elkington (BE)	Chairman, Rules group
John Palmer (JP)	Chairman, Elite Competitions
Michael Richardson (MR)	Major Events
Mike Forrest (MF)	Chairman, Major Events Group
Sue Marsden (SM)	Chairman, Junior Competitions
Mike Hamilton (MH)	Secretary

Apologies

Peter Guillaume (PG)	Chairman, Fixtures Group
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2 Declarations of Interest

SM declared a potential declaration of interest regarding any discussions on the Southern Championships.

3 Minutes of Meeting of 3 November 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November were confirmed as a true record.

There were no matters arising that are not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

4 Notification of any other business

It was agreed that the following items should be dealt with under Any Other Business:

- Map scales for the BOC 2008 if not covered elsewhere on the agenda.
- Authorisation of local events (C5 and below) if not covered elsewhere.

5 Review the action list from the previous meeting

To receive an update on the actions resulting from previous meetings

- Item 6 – The issues of awarding and producing medals and sponsored prizes is on-going; it was suggested that digital photos be taken of all trophies for security purposes and a database of winners maintained.
- Item 7 – Junior Competition Group have resolved the matter of the scheduling of the JIRC and it will now be held during the first week in July

6 Competition Structure Review

There was extensive discussion on the review recommendations and the following key points made:

- Council has now agreed that there will be a 3 tier structure and Management Committee have endorsed this decision. Members of Events Committee still have concerns regarding the practicality of the 3 tier structure but LW made it clear that the task of the Committee and Groups is now to find solutions and enable implementation to be progressed.

Action: 1 Fixtures and Rules Groups to consider the changes required to implement the new structure (PG, BE asap)

- There is still a need for the rationale behind the changes to be made clear and 'sold' to the members and clubs.
- The issues around the rankings list have still to be resolved. LW explained she had asked the re-formed Development Committee to consider the implication for the ranking system as an incentive tool. Questions to be addressed include:
 - Do they drive competition?
 - Should they cover the width of the competition structure – top to bottom or just be for a few 'serious' orienteers?

Action: 2 Development Committee asked to discuss and comment on the Ranking List and how it might be modified to meet the needs of more participants (LW asap)

- The 'authority' to agree the scheduling of fixtures needs to be finalised and Fixtures Group should report back to Events with their recommendations. It was discussed that 'Local' events be left to the clubs to authorise, 'Standard' events be the responsibility of regional associations to authorise and 'National' events will be for Fixtures Group to authorise. There was a long discussion over the issue of 'clashes' of fixtures at the various levels and particularly that clashes of Standard events in areas across association borders must be avoided.

Action: 3 Fixtures Group to recommend authority levels for the new events structure (PG asap)

- It was agreed that there are 3 criteria defining a course; degree of difficulty in navigation, the distance (or adjusted distance) covered and the degree of physical difficulty. A long discussion ensued about the way in which this should be communicated to participants and whether or not the colour coded structure should reflect the degree of navigational difficulty or the overall difficulty of the course. MH expressed concern that the system must be simple and meaningful to non-members. Committee members did not come to a consensus agreement on the most effective way to market/advertise/represent colour coded course.
- It was agreed that there is still some way to go before there is clarity over Local and Standard events. There is a need for the differential between these definitions to be clear.
- Rules Group will now have to consider the Rules and Guidelines and re-write to meet the new events structure.
- The Controller Grades, responsibilities etc will need to be modified and members felt that the 3 tier structure should be reflected within the Controller job descriptions. It is probable that the grades of controller could fit with the 3 tier structure. Members agreed that Controllers should be appointed to all events but that the role would change across the range of events with the Controller at local events focusing primarily on safety and enjoyment. This was reinforced by MH who made the point that it is essential, if we are to satisfy our insurers and keep cost down, that the role of the Controller at local events includes checking the risk assessment/risk management of the event.
- Area Championships: LW, PG and MF are to work with the clubs affected in delivering them.

*Action: 4 Communicated with Clubs regarding the hosting of the new area championships
(LW,PG,MF asap)*

7 Major Events

7.1 Update on the formation of the Major Events Group

MF updated members on the establishing of the group. Steve McKinley, Simon Errington, David May and Nev Myers have agreed to join the group. Events Committee members were invited to put forward names of people for the group. JP to consider a person that can reflect the views of the elite.

LW invited the Group, once formed, to consider the terms of reference and make what recommendations they felt are important to the Board.

*Action: 5 Major Events Group to discuss and make recommendations regarding its Terms of Reference
(MF asap)*

It was agreed that the remit should include all those events within the new 'Championship event part of the structure ie Area Championships will be included as will Compass Sport Cup and possibly a few others.

MF made it clear that he will not get involved in the 2008 events but will be contacting the 2009 events that fall within his remit.

The need for a formal handover from MR to MF was agreed.

There was discussion regarding the lines of delineation between Fixtures Group and Major Events Group and the following was tentatively agreed:

- Fixtures Group will be responsible for agreeing the scheduling of events
- Major Events Group will be responsible for agreeing the terrain, organisation, controllers, reviewing of the events and for the development of major events in general.

It was agreed that there will need to be modification of the procedures used for major events and that it is important a 'franchise' agreement of some type is established as a matter of urgency.

*Action: 6 Major Events Group to consider the 'franchise' agreement for the hosting of future major events
(MF asap)*

8 Council and Management Reports

No matters were raised that are not elsewhere on the agenda.

9 Operational Group reports

Home Internationals, Competition (Elite, Senior & Junior), Rules, Fixtures, Map, Major Events

Points raised from the Group meeting were:

Major Events – MR updated member through his report:

- General: Although not all MEO forms have been received for 2008 and 2009 events, names of officials are available where full registrations have been submitted. However, it seems that SOA have had problems identifying officials for 08 and 09 Scottish Champs and no names have yet been submitted, nor for LOC National on 19 Apl 09.
- JK Sprint Guidelines are being prepared and will be in place by the event.
- The seedling of the elite has been completed.
- Controller Appointments:

- Dave Stubbs to take on JK Day 3 although working overseas since the end of January he is maintaining contact with key officials and Keith Tonkin is acting as his assistant.
- Concerns have been raised about the agreement that a controller should be appointed to a major event prior to his appointment as a grade 1 controller – it was agreed that an alternative controller be found.
- No Controller has yet been identified to take on the JK or British sprints in 09 and it has been suggested that a competent grade 2 'non sprint' controller could do this with a 'Sprint Advisor' - much as for WRE Elite courses; - committee members were uncomfortable at this suggestion and asked for the situation to be reviewed.
- Controllers have been appointed for most of the 2009 'National' events but a nominee from SOA is awaited for the Scottish Champs and MR has offered to take on the AIRE event.
- Future Events:
 - 2008, reports from Controllers all indicate that preparations for events are progressing satisfactorily, although in a few cases not as far advanced as they should be. The following points should be noted:
 - JK08 sprint: Entries expected ca. 1500 and main issue has been matching expectations of entrants against as-yet non-existent guidelines for JK sprint event.
 - BOC/BRC: Issue of map scale(s) will be raised as a separate item.
 - 2009 points for discussion:
 - JK : After initial problems the areas to be used are now finalised but concerns have been raised about mapping and difficulties in filling a few key appointments. Support from outside the region has been requested.
 - BOC: A report on progress has been received and is discussed later in the agenda.
 - 2010. So far only one ER1 form has been received, along with details of preliminary plans for JK.
- Map Scales for BOC 2008

Members expressed concern that this important issue was being brought up and discussed at the meeting with no representative from Map Group present. Members felt that this had put them in a difficult situation. LW to write to CS to express members' views.

What background information that was available was laid before members; however it was recognised that having no Map Group spokesman was detrimental to the discussion.

The following key points were made:

 - Elite would have liked 1:15000
 - Map Group has accepted a map scale of 1:10000 and has not agreed 1:7.500
 - No conclusive rationale had been presented to the best knowledge of members as to why a scale of 1:7500 should be used for M/W45+ courses but neither had Map Group presented a conclusive rationale for maintaining all competitors using 1:10000
 - Members recognised that the British Orienteering Rules followed IOF Rules and stated 1:15000 for elite and the opportunity to use 1:10000 as an exception. Provision was made for 1:10000 for M/W45+ but did not specifically make provision for any other scale – members also recognised the rules could provide a degree of ambiguity

Rules Group should produce a new Guideline for the British Sprint Championship for all age groups based on a similar structure to the Elite event.

- Area Championships: to be held in SOA, WOA, NIOA, North, South and Midlands; members agreed that this should be implemented from 2009 and under the jurisdiction of the Major Events Group.
PG to approach associations and clubs to discuss their event being included as one of the Area Championships held in 2009

Mapping Group:

- No representative of Map Group was present at the meeting.

Rules Group:

- It was noted that a detailed analysis of event results has shown that older men and women are running faster and this is impacting on the recommended times for courses. This will be reflected in the updated Guidelines to be produced as a result of the Event Structure Review.
- The IOF decision regarding the non-removal of leg split times has been noted and will be discussed at the next Rules Group meeting.

Senior Competitions Group:

- Several people have been approached to join the group and LW hopes the group will be active by the next meeting.

10 Any Other Business

The items of AOB had been raised and dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

11 Dates and Venues of Meetings

Future meetings will be held in Birmingham commencing at 12:00 and on:

14 June 2008, 15 November 2008

12 Chairman's closing remarks

LW thanked members for a stimulating meeting and closed at 16:40.

Events Committee February 2008

Action List

- Action: 1 Fixtures, Rules and Major Events Groups to consider the changes required to implement the new structure (PG,BE,MF asap)*
- Action: 2 Development Committee asked to discuss and comment on the Ranking List and how it might be modified to meet the needs of more participants (LW asap)*
- Action: 3 Fixtures Group to recommend authority levels for the new events structure (PG asap)*
- Action: 4 Clubs to be communicated with regarding the hosting of the new area championships (LW,PG,MF asap)*
- Action: 5 Major Events Group to discuss and make recommendations regarding its Terms of Reference (MF asap)*
- Action: 6 Major Events Group to consider the 'franchise' agreement for the hosting of future major events (MF asap)*
- Action: 7 A press release to be made to inform members of the decision taken on the BOC 2008 map scale (MH asap)*

ACTIONS from previous meetings

Arising or continuing from previous meetings of Event Operations Committee.

A plan to publicise the benefits of the proposed structure to associations and clubs and members be developed and implemented (LW, asap)	LW	asap
MG: Mapping forms MR1 & MR2 to be updated and formatted – Still requiring implementation; awaiting confirmation as to the cost of changing the database	CS	→
MG: Training courses policy to be drafted and circulated for comment – On going (MH)	MH	→
MEG: Procedures for the removal of controllers from the list to be developed – This is now within the remit of Rules Group	Rules Group	→
Major Events Handbook to be considered by Rules Group – Updating of the Handbook continues (BE & Rules Group)	BE/Rules Group	→
MR to draft a set of procedures to deal with the appointment of controllers to major events – On going (MR)	MR	→

✓ Completed

→ On-going

A Agenda item