

**Trail-O Committee
Minutes
Saturday 10th July 2010**



Meeting held at the Comfort Inn, Birmingham on Saturday 10 July 2010 at 11:20

Present

Peter Roberts, Chairman	EBOR - YHOA
Anne Braggins	WAOC, EAOA
Neil Cameron	NGOC, SWOA
Alan Gartside	LVO, NIOA
Dick Keighley	WIM, SWOA
John Kewley	MDOC, NWOA
Christine Roberts	EBOR, YHOA

T10/15 Chairman's introduction and opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the limited notice of the meeting date which had also proved difficult to set. He thanked Neil Cameron for agreeing to take the minutes.

He agreed that progress had not been as great as had been hoped two years ago, but on the other hand, the understanding by the general membership was much greater. He particularly thanked Neil Cameron for his efforts on ranking and the selection procedures which had enabled the selection of teams for WTOC/ETOC 2010.

Alan Gartside was now a full member of the Committee with endorsement by NIOA.

T10/16 Attendance and apologies

There were apologies from Dave Gittus, Don Braggins and Clive Allen.

T10/17 Conflicts of interest declaration

No additional conflicts of interest were declared.

T10/18 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2010 were approved.

T10/19 Matters arising and actions (not on agenda)

There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda.

T10/20 Publicity

The Chairman advised that he had held a meeting with Mike Hamilton and Caroline Povey about web site development for Trail-O. Further work was required to refine the exact Trail-O requirements so that they could be planned into the rolling programme of development. An offer by Christine Roberts to tackle the whole area of publicity for Trail-O was gratefully accepted and she would identify what initial minimal change should be requested.

John Kewley commented favourably about the news coverage of Trail-O on the web site in recent months, and Christine Roberts commented similarly on the continuing Focus coverage. Anne Braggins agreed to supply news and Focus articles from ETOC and WTOC 2010.

Answering a question, Dick Keighley said that any local Trail-O event could be registered on the web site by the relevant club official with fixtures database access.

Alan Gartside advised that JK 2011 Trail-O would be publicised at ETOC 2010.

T10/21 Events

Peter Roberts said that he felt that our “premier” Trail-O competitions should use the “best” terrain (not necessarily the best terrain for Foot-O) and officials, and if need be, Trail-O at BOC should be held at another location on a different date. John Kewley pointed out that different terrains allowed slightly different styles of Trail-O event, which Anne Braggins said was useful for widening competitor experience.

Anne Braggins felt that as a Festival of Orienteering, the JK should include Trail-O, but the venue of BOC might or might not be appropriate for BTOC.

Dick Keighley pointed out that the JK was one of the few times we got foreign Trail-O competitors, and some Foot-O competitors who wanted to try Trail-O or to experience it again. He also said that we were very dependent on club volunteer resources and this had created tensions at JK 2010. The issue of volunteer resources therefore certainly needed close review at future JKs, eg by using resources from clubs of other than the JK host Association, although the lead officials should ideally come from the host region.

Neil Cameron suggested that the Committee develop definitive information on JK Trail-O volunteer resources required (keeping that resource to the minimum) and then appoint someone to arrange and defend that resource, liaising closely with the JK organisers.

It was agreed that inclusion of Trail-O at future JKs was very important, but although desirable, was not as essential at BOCs.

JK2011 Trail-O in Northern Ireland was being organised by Alan Gartside, and was the next elite Trail-O event in the British calendar. Both Trail-O days would be a short car ride away from the Foot-O events. A method of coordinating Foot-O and Trail-O entry times was being offered. The registration of the Trail-O events was still required and Alan Gartside agreed to arrange this.

A venue for BTOC 2011 was still required. It was agreed that Dick Keighley would approach YHOA to see if BTOC could be held coincident with BOC on 14/15 May 2011.

British Orienteering had been approached by the IOF to see if it would consider staging WTOC 2012 which was currently unallocated. One possibility was alongside JK 2012 in Scotland (possibly the week following the JK), when many orienteers might be available to act as volunteers.

The Committee was unanimously of the opinion that the opportunity was worth seizing and whatever necessary work should be done urgently to confirm whether this opportunity could be confirmed. The Committee awaited the Board’s decision.

It was agreed that Dick Keighley would act as the Trail-O Committee’s key contact on this matter going forward.

Peter Roberts would contact NWOA regarding Trail-O at BOC 2012.

T10/22 Mini-group feedback**T10/23 Rules & Guidelines**

Dick Keighley advised that the Irish Trail-O rules had been finalised by Alan Gartside and were therefore perhaps suitable for adaptation for British Orienteering, but area access problems leading up to JK had hindered further work. Slightly modified IOF Rules had recently been published. Dick Keighley planned to progress this after the WTOC 2010 involving Alan Gartside and John Kewley. They would then be approved by the Trail-O Committee before further progress within British Orienteering.

T10/24 Coaching & training resources

Christine Roberts reported on work done and tabled a paper detailing some thinking (attached). Seeking to include a Trail-O module at the Coaching Conference had yet to be tackled.

T10/25 Selection procedures

Neil Cameron reported on the work done. A new ranking system based on Brian Parker's algorithm had been created, and selection procedures published for ETOC and WTOC 2010 based on it. Work remaining included updating the ranking with BTOC 2010 results, making the algorithm, the list and the results it used fully available in the interests of transparency, and the handling of Irish Trail-O competitors who had not yet committed to British or Irish team selection.

T10/26 Chairman change

Before handing the Committee Chairmanship to Dick Keighley, Peter wanted to thank his wife Christine who had covered for him in recent months due to significant work commitments. Dick started by thanking Peter for his work as Chairman and hoped that he himself could maintain Peter's high standards.

T10/27 Funding review

Anne Braggins thanked the team members who had accepted WTOC/ETOC selection despite the significant personal financial contribution required.

Answering a question, she reported that there was as yet no progress to report on the availability of a new or refreshed team uniform. Dick Keighley asked that the National Office be asked to consider including Trail-O requirements when team kit was being procured, if need be with a Trail-O financial contribution. Anne Braggins agreed to pursue the question of Trail-O team uniforms for 2011.

T10/28 TempO

Anne Braggins reported that an IOF Technical note had been published and the Norwegian web site now explained how the TempO in Trondheim would operate. Entry fees were not yet known. There would be no Zero controls this year. The time penalty for a wrong answer would be 45 seconds. It would be called the TempO Trophy and there would be a prize ceremony.

John Kewley asked whether we should now be considering TempO at British events.

Alan Gartside reported on the TempO run recently in Ireland, and the resources he had developed. Alan agreed to consider preparing a short document outlining how to stage and run a single site TempO event.

T10/29 Event officials – training and requirements

Peter Roberts led a discussion on how to develop more Trail-O planners. No definite conclusions were reached about the best way forward, but members were asked to see what progress they could make using their local contacts.

T10/30 Involving clubs

Club interest in staging future Trail-O events was crucial. The idea of using a 1-site TempO event at CompassSport Cup first round events was suggested.

T10/31 Any other business

Christine Roberts raised the further development of the results program as created by Don Braggins. It now allowed up to 22 normal controls and up to 4 timed controls, with guidance on how to tailor the software for use, and practical tips such as avoiding excessive car battery usage. Dick Keighley would arrange to distribute the materials to anyone who had not yet received them.

T10/32 Dates and venues of future meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in January 2011, date and venue to be decided. Further progress would be made by e-mail and possible teleconferencing in the interim.

Close

The meeting closed at 4 p.m.

Appendix

TRAIL ORIENTEERING PROGRESSION ACTIVITIES

LEVEL 1 – school or park.

Could be in addition to an event string course.

1 Learning symbols

Put out pairs of kites in close proximity on different symbols such as a fence corner and a building corner or a tree and a seat. Pupils punch at the one that is circled on the map – no descriptions for this exercise.

It is not necessary for these to be viewed from afar.

2 Compass points

Put out 2 or 3 kites on the same or similar features that require a compass direction to describe them. This would be 'western tree' of a nearby pair or 'N gatepost' or 'fence, east side'. A third kite can be put in the centre (of a flowerbed, say) or on a third side (of a shed). Descriptions are essential for this exercise.

This type of exercise can also be used as a less energetic breather between physical training sessions.

LEVEL 2 – park/woodland with simple contours.

3 Lining up

4 Distance judgement

5 Simple contour interpretation

LEVEL 3

6 timed element

7 zero option

8 complex contour interpretation

9 compass bearings

Suggested at meeting

- Learning (pictorial) control descriptions
- Recognizing features (ditch, vegetation change etc)