

Trail O Committee

Minutes

23rd January 2010



Meeting held at the Holiday Inn, Birmingham on Saturday 23 January 2010 at 11:15

Present

Peter Roberts, Chairman	EBOR - YHOA
Dave Gittus	WRE, WMOA
John Kewley	MDOC, NWOA
Anne Braggins	WAOC, EAOA
Christine Roberts	EBOR, YHOA
Dick Keighley	WIM, SWOA
Neil Cameron	NGOC, SWOA ex officio

Guests

Don Braggins	WAOC, EAOA
Alan Gartside	LVO, NIOA
Christine Vince	KERNO, SWOA
Clive Allen	Silkeborg (DEN)

T10/01 Chairman's introduction and opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the second Trail O committee meeting and gave in particular a warm welcome to the guests who had in some cases travelled a considerable distance.

The Chairman said that for many, 2009 was an odd year literally, but for him it was one of battling chronic illness and coping with a recession-hit company. On both counts he now had reason to be optimistic.

2009 had also been an information-gathering year and whilst the Directors may not have seen the rapid growth they looked for, he said we were now in a more positive position to take things forward.

The Chairman said that many would see this as a committee meeting, but he saw it as a group of like-minded individuals meeting to bring the sport we so love into mainstream orienteering.

He said that he only came into Trail-O because illness had precluded him from Foot-O. Trail-O offered him more scope to demonstrate his technical awareness.

For the meeting today he had adopted a more conference-like approach so everyone could feel involved. He hoped everyone would approve of the new format.

T10/02 Attendance and apologies

There were no apologies.

T10/03 Conflicts of interest declaration

The Chairman reminded members that they needed to complete and hand in conflict of interest declarations or send them to national office. No additional conflicts of interest were declared.

T10/04 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2009 were approved.

T10/05 Matters arising and actions (not on agenda)

AB asked that the procedures outlined after the conference of 26 September 2009 were followed. CA raised the question of whether the names for 3 levels of Trail-O course had been settled. It was agreed to take this under item 10/7.

PR said that the review of POCs was still ongoing. It was hoped to show on the website database which ones already had Trail-O courses, and to ascertain whether they were in good repair and which were thought suitable for setting up Trail-O. Members were asked to review POCs in their own regions. This was an extension of action 5 from the last meeting.

CV asked if Coaching had been contacted as in minute 11. The Chairman replied that he had but without reply, and he needed to follow that up.

Action list. The Chairman reminded members to send confirmation (by e-mail or in writing) from their Association that it had appointed them to the Trail-O Committee.

T10/06 Publicity - website content and Focus

CR reported that she and the Chairman held a meeting at national office with Caroline Povey regarding the British Orienteering web site. It was agreed that a separate explanatory page would appear under the disciplines Trail-O, MTB-O etc. The Trail-O page would have a link to other Trail-O pages. WTOC details were still to be added. POCs need a filter for those, which were wheelchair/buggy friendly and a new one specifically about Trail-O could be added.

DB had supplied suggested content of the additional Trail-O pages.

AB mentioned that IOF were discussing organisers' guidelines for Trail-O. An amended version of WTOC material from CA would soon be loaded on the IOF web site. The IOF content could be linked to from the British Orienteering Trail-O pages if desired.

CA mentioned uses of the web site, which had not been mentioned. One use was an ability to link to the Trail-O fixtures (eg JK and BTOC) in addition to the existing Trail-O filter in the fixtures section. Another use was the Trail-O page being a starting point for people wanting to learn Trail-O. Brian Parker had produced a photo-style Trail-O (currently under discussion in IOF) that was a good way of explaining and teaching Trail-O.

CA said that he had written to Erik Peckett re how you could enter the Foot-O if you wanted to enter the Trail-O. This had now been settled but it still needed to be on the JK web site. CV agreed to action this.

Action: CV to arrange guidance for Foot-O entrants at JK 2010 who wanted to enter Trail-O to be highlighted on JK 2010 web site as soon as possible.

JK suggested that in due course Temp-O should be added to the web site too.

CR reported on Focus. The Spring edition would be distributed in mid-March. As long as articles and photos etc were submitted, they would get published. A plan for intended content was required. NC suggested that all content should have a purpose

in mind, eg to promote Trail-O to Foot orienteers either as potential participants or officials such a planners.

T10/07 Event format; inclusivity

The Chairman made a statement as follows:

In order to bring Trail-O to the masses we need to offer a simplified approach for both officials and competitors alike.

We should have a standard 8 control course with no timed controls. Where possible the map should be modified for Trail-O. There would be 8 sets of flags used for say elite, standard and beginners.

Why 3 classes when simplification is the order? The Chairman thought the jump from a true beginners course to elite was too great. In Foot-O terms it is a leap from a technical difficulty of a white course to a brown course. To develop the sport we need a graded approach as in Foot-O.

We should develop the Temp-O aspect as a separate issue also using 8 sites in the same structure of Foot-O.

In both disciplines there would be a really easy and a really hard site and then one in between. Just think about it – it should and will work.

As the sport progressed we could have a series of events on the same structure of championship races.

Without volunteers to take the sport on, our implementation will be limited. It was better to achieve a more basic level than none at all.

There needed to be a simplification in the administration. With a limit on the sites it can all be automated and this something we need to look into more. He liked the idea of as soon as the competitor finishes their score is flagged up on the screen. Maybe we have to use a card reader concept rather than dibber – who knows!!

There is no need to split classes as the true sport allows disabled to compete against able-bodied on an equal footing. This should be encouraged.

He felt feel the trail can leave the path as long as the surface is good. This may allow more technical controls to be used and in different areas. Steep hills en route should be avoided but a gradual climb and fall was acceptable.

DK pointed out that urban areas were often suitable for staging Trail-O. AB also suggested a progressive course where successive decision points increased in difficulty.

DB agreed to produce an Excel spreadsheet to handle the result production for such events. DB commented that he now believes he has a way of handling Temp-O information relatively easily.

JK suggested that courses for Foot-O orienteers should also be considered ie not using paths for the viewing points.

The Chairman invited CV to explain her ideas about staging events. CV said that when Trail-O was run beside big events (eg JK), orienteers were not going to be focused on or interested in Trail-O. Consequently, these were not perhaps the best

opportunities for promoting Trail-O to foot orienteers. Trail-O could sit very comfortably alongside Sprint-O, Park-O, Urban-O, where the maps were also drawn to the Trail-O scale. AB mentioned that clubs that did evening events in spring/summer could stage Trail-O even using the same area each week.

T10/08 Group session followed by reporting session

Groups were formed and discussed Rules & Guidelines; training of coaches/officials; and selection procedures. Groups then reported back.

Rules & Guidelines. It was noted that the recently published British Orienteering 2010 Rules were styled as that, rather than “Foot-O Rules”, albeit that Rule 1.3.1 confirmed applicability was to Foot-O competition. There were no British Trail-O rules but only IOF rules and earlier work done for Irish Trail-O. Work would need done in the year ahead to produce British Trail-O Rules, with a target of a draft set by end March.

JK suggested that the standard 8-control event mentioned earlier needed a simple set of guidelines eg Foot-O enlarged maps were acceptable. Initial thoughts on what the standards would be for the 3 levels of Trail-O course envisaged as discussed earlier. eg timed controls or zero controls at some levels but not at others. The Group was against statements made by some Controllers that the same terrain could not be used simultaneously for Foot-O and Trail-O.

Coaching and Training resources. The Group agreed that the more people that were exposed to some kind of Trail-O experience the better: eg use of Trail-O in “rest” periods at squad sessions. Suggestion that Coaching Conference 2011 have a session on how to use Trail-O (including Temp-O) with Junior squads. Further discussion would take place electronically about Trail-O type experiences for Foot-O participants. Skills needed for 3 levels were discussed together with the equipment that would be needed. Also suggested were some names for the levels, including mapmaster for the middle grade. Foot-O coaching materials would need examined to see what needed amended. AG suggested the need for documentation of good practice eg on introducing Trail-O concepts rather than on coaching it.

Selection procedures.

The group reported on how they envisaged selection being done in 2010 for the European and World Trail-O Championships. Further work was needed to develop the very simple ranking system envisaged, to validate it and to define the rules of selection rigorously.

It was agreed that each group should develop its plan with priorities and report to the next meeting with progress more rapidly where required.

T10/09 Involving clubs

This item was deferred due to lack of time.

T10/10 Funding – GBR team numbers/likely costs

AB had prepared a budget for the ETOC and WTOC 2010 teams. The costs were very high this year. The Paralympic eligibility criteria were under review by IOF at present.

The status of selection procedures was covered under item T10/08.

T10/11 Temp-O – an update

AB reported that there would possibly be a Temp-O competition instead of an IOF Trail-O clinic in Norway but still to be confirmed.

T10/12 Event officials - Training and requirements

For JK Trail-O 2010 DK and B Parker were planner/controller (day1) and vice versa day 2, and BTOC 2010 DG planner and AB Controller. All four are IOF Trail-O Event Advisers or Senior Event Advisers. Insurance requirements needed to be checked. It was agreed, despite the fact that neither were now BOF Foot-O Controllers, that this was acceptable. For JK Trail-O 2011, AG would plan and a Controller was required: AG was authorised to find someone suitable and nominate him/her to the next Committee meeting.

Action: AG to find and nominate JK 2011 Controller to next Trail-O meeting.

T10/13 Any other business

Finance

It was agreed that a project to identify projects requiring finance was required. The cost of the set of projects could feed into the annual budget cycle of British Orienteering and other sources of funding.

Action: Ideas for projects to the Chairman as soon as possible and certainly by 15 Feb.

AG raised the issue that the quality control checklist is really a planner's tool not a Controller's tool due to the amount of time on site it required.

Chairman

The Chairman raised the issue that he had agreed a year ago that he would chair the Trail-O Committee for a year and then DK has said he'd take over afterwards. PR was now asking whether he and DK could work together in the role, with PR focusing on Development and DK as Chairman. After discussion of this approach, it was agreed that PR would continue as Chairman and that DK alone would take over and be proposed formally at the next meeting.

The Chairman said he had invited guests to the meeting and it was agreed that this had proved valuable, although the point made by NC that costs had to be kept down was accepted (guests this time had in fact come at very low cost).

T10/14 Dates and venues of future meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in Birmingham, possibly on a Saturday in May, date to be decided. The meeting after that would probably be in October.

Close

The meeting closed at 4 p.m.