

**Event Scheduling Group Minutes  
Meeting held in Birmingham (Carrs Lane)  
Saturday 2 March 2019 - 1130 to 1530**



1. Chairman's opening comments, welcome and introductions.

All were welcomed. All the usual participants with no visitors on this occasion.

2. Record of persons present, and apologies.

Mike Cope (MC) – Chairman of the Event Scheduling Group (ESG) and YHOA

David Pal (DP) - WOA

Richard Sansbury (RJS) – SWOA

Jean Payne (JP) – NWOA

Sarah Mansel (SM) – EAOA

Allan Williams (AW) – WMOA

Duncan Archer (DA) – NEOA

Chris Phillips (CP) – Chair of Events and Competitions Committee

Philip Gristwood (PAG) – SEOA

Richard Sharp (RES) – SCOA

Ursula Williamson (UW) - EMOA

Apologies

David Orwin (DO) – NIOA

Paul Caban (PC) – SOA

Expenses should be claimed using the form from the BO website. A reminder that for the auditors, claims must be signed (electronic signature acceptable), original receipts must be attached, and postcodes should be shown if travelling by car.

3. Declaration of interests and any other business.

MC as YHOA representative and chair of ESG.

PAG as SEOA representative and chair of EOA.

4. Minutes of Fixtures Group meeting held on 20 October 2018.

a. Accuracy.

b. Actions from meeting.

5. MC to add checking columns to Events List. **Done**

6. DP to ask WOA about hosting 2022 JK in Wales with help from other associations.

**Done and WOA will host.**

6. PC to ask S6D 2021 about including BOC and possibly British Middles. **No.**

6. MC to go back to YHOA and confirm that Brit Spr and BMSR can be taken on in 2021. **Done with confirmation.**

6. JP to ask NWOA about BRC 2021. **Probably good news – see item 6.**

6. All AFS to ask about BOC/BRC 2021 and Brit Spr/Middles 2021 as the normal weekends in case ideas above fail or a better solution is possible. **Possibly positive news from NWOA for BOC/BRC but Brit Middles still a problem.**

6. All AFS to ask about BOC/BRC weekend for 2022. **Possibility from SWOA – see item 6 below.**

6. AW to check with WM about BNC in 2021. **Unlikely.**

6. RJS to ask SW about BNC in 2022. **Definite offer and may move to 2021.**

6. PAG to seek a host and date for the Southern Champs 2021. **Done post-meeting.**

6. AW to seek a host and date for the Midlands Champs 2021. **To go with SinS.**

7. MC to chase up a few 2019 UKOL unknowns, send details to AFS for checking, and then to Martin Ward for publishing. **Done.**

10. RJS to ask SW again about JHI 2020. **No.**

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11. MC will check that all 2019 YBT heats are in place and chase up as necessary. **Done**
  11. PPJTR for 2020 and 2021. JP and AW to check possibilities mentioned. **No progress but see item 12.**
  11. PAG to ask about BSOC 2020. **Done – HH to host.**
  11. All AFS to ask associations about offers for PPJTR, BSOC and BSSC where there are gaps in the planner and in the years further ahead. **Little progress.**
  13. PC to add level B SOLs for 2020. **Done.**
  14. MC to produce suggested rota for BOC/BRC once JK rota suggestions are a little clearer. **Done.**
  15. MC will ask Tony B about landowner categories in the database. **Tony has not managed to make much progress with developers.**
  16. MC and PC to liaise over sprint fixture entries. **Started.**
  17. MC to book meeting dates with BO office. **Done.**
5. Events list and scheduling to be done.  
Using the background colouring for dates, we should have completed blue for 2023, green for 2022, yellow for 2021 and red for 2020. Anything to be changed or added to the list?  
2020 Club level B events for the second half of 2020 to be finalised.  
Very minor modifications made to some event information. The group is generally happy with checking columns so MC will continue to try and update as progress is made.
6. JK, British Long/Middle/Sprint/Relays/Mixed Sprint Relays/Night Champs, Area Champs. Confirmation, identification of dates and areas, responsibilities as appropriate 2020 to 2023. See coloured sections on new events list. Serious problems with BOC/BRC 2021 and 2022, BMDC 2021 and JK 2024.
- a. There is hope that NWOA may take on BOC/BRC 2021. One possibility mentioned was to use WCOC and SROC areas of Dalegarth and Helsington Burrows, but this is far from a firm plan at the moment. The whole idea is to be discussed on 9/3/19. JP to confirm after that. If NWOA do agree to take on BOC/BRC, they might prefer to combine BOC with the Northern Champs. As it is NWOA's turn in 2022, they would like to do a swop with NEOA. Post meeting NEOA has already agreed to this and two weekends are being considered 3/4/22 or 22/5/22 for NEOA's turn. The preferred date for BOC/BRC 2021 if NWOA take it on is 8/9 May but the original reserved date of 24/25 April remains too.
  - b. The best hope for BOC/BRC 2022 is that SWOA will take it on with the Southern Champs. RJS will ask.
  - c. JK 2024. There was some discussion about how this event may be held without any one association taking full responsibility for the whole event, but with EM and others making a contribution. Could it be a BOF event with individuals from several associations being recruited to officiate and help? The appointment of Andy Yeates as a Major Events consultant alongside Helen Errington means that there could be good local support and possibly even a paid coordinator. AW has indicated that Cannock Chase may be available for some of the JK events as Easter is early in 2024. UW to consider if any areas in EMOA near enough to the West Midlands could be used for any of the JK days – at least the sprint day might be possible. If areas could be found and permissions obtained, then there is a reasonable chance that some key officials keen to plan or take on other responsibilities could be found even if they come from outside the association areas where the events are to be held. AW and UW to do some checking and MC to consult with Andy and Helen.

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- d. British Middles 2021. There is no obvious solution except for trying to have them run alongside one of the Area Champs. Not very hopeful but AW and PAG will ask. Also MC to ask PC about Scottish Middle Champs. The alternative of just awarding Middles medals/trophies at another event might be possible but is not a very suitable solution.
  - e. SM will ask EAOA about hosting the British Sprints and Mixed Sprint Relays in 2023. The British Middles will still be a problem and the best hope is that they can be run alongside one of the Area Champs – YH, WM, SC. MC, AW, RES to ask.
  - f. BNC. RJS to ask if NGOC will bring their offer forward from 2022 to 2021. Post meeting NGOC have agreed to this. There also ought to be hosts by now for 2022 and 2023. All AFS to ask and MC to ask via some BO channel.
  - g. Dates will be needed by October for Area Champs 2022. DA, UW and RJS to ask.
7. Future plans for JK/BOC/BRC. Suggested rota for JK/BOC/BRC beyond 2023. Pre-meeting notes sent out earlier. Notes for 11 Feb meeting with Peter Hart and others, and any follow-up to that meeting.

The suggestions for hosting the JK and BOC/BRC over roughly the next 10 years were considered acceptable though some are a long way ahead to be sure of what will happen long term. MC will build the suggestions into the BOplanner rather than keep all the information on a separate document.

Most of what was in the pre-meeting notes dealt with under item 6 – mainly problems with finding hosts for several Major events. The notes for the Feb 11 meeting were sent to those attending the meeting and they provided a summary of the current situation with all ESG scheduled events.

CP and MC provided feedback to ESG from Feb 11 meeting though it was noted that there are no formal minutes available yet. It was decided that a full Competitions Review was not appropriate at this time but that some changes would be considered to make the current structure easier to host and schedule. The general feeling was that there were too many Major/A level events and that consideration should be given to changing the Area Championships to National/B level. Though this might help, a reservation is that this fails to reduce the number of big events to host and schedule, unless another suggestion to combine the Area Champs more often with other events is used. Some of the possible solutions to finding Major event hosts might utilise this e.g. Northern Champs might be part of BOC in 2021 and the Midlands Champs will be part of SinS in 2021 as has happened before.

There were thought to be too many National/B events as well. It may be that some quality control (as used to happen) might be introduced to ensure that everything at this level was properly meeting the criteria set. It was agreed that the criteria for all levels did need to be updated.

CP is to start a discussion at the next E&CC which will include consideration of reducing the status of the Area Champs to level B. For level B events, consideration of introducing an embargo period, having a controller from outside the association rather than outside the club, and getting a terrain assessment to E&CC one year ahead of the event.

As mentioned above, in addition to Helen being appointed as a Major Events consultant, the same position had been offered to and accepted by Andy Yeates. In offering support, Helen will mainly concentrate on JKs and Andy on BOC/BRC.

Additional items from the 11 Feb meeting were that there will be an update of the Event Official's Handbook and a restructuring (not a rewrite) of the rules.

8. UKOL and Year Outline Plans.

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a. 2020 – check needed

Plans for 2020 were looked at in detail. It was decided that there were really too many events in NWOA and that DEE's Oct one should probably not be included. Caddihoe might be a better option. The early Southern Champs may not be included as a supporting Saturday event is unlikely. UW is to ask about a supporting event for the Midlands Champs – sprint, urban, middle or night rather than a long. There is a big gap in early Sept and possible events for consideration were noted as the Dales Weekend, City of London, or a SOL. Post meeting when all numbers are totted up with likely updates, it should be noted that the likely programme is not as well balanced as usual in that there are not enough urban and maybe sprint events. Hence the City of London with a supporting urban or sprint event may be a good fit for an extra – MC to ask PAG to enquire.

b. 2021 – basics should be in

It was agreed that there are too many uncertainties yet for 2021 to do too much planning.

9. UK Elite Orienteering League and Junior Elite League – plans for 2020. World Ranking Events.

All 3 days of JK 2020 will be WREs. No plans yet for 2020 leagues.

10. Compass Sport Cup and Trophy.

a. Associations taking on finals.

2020 OD and 2021 DVO should be OK. There should be hosts for 2022 and 2023 by now. All AFS to ask and MC is to ask clubs/members directly.

b. Effect of heat distribution in 2019. Recent suggestions for which heats clubs attend. NEOA/YHOA and EAOA/EMOA rotas.

NEOA's NATO heat for 2019 had to be cancelled because of lack of numbers wishing to attend. It is hoped that such problems can be avoided in the future by a better heat distribution. The CSC coordinator has asked for opinions on some suggestions – clubs to compete at their own association heat unless it is more than 100 miles away and there is a nearer alternative, ESG to change the current rota so that when NEOA hosts an event it is EAOA's turn to host one, that clubs such as SN belonging to 2 associations must elect to be in one for the purpose of the CSC, and all events must be able to support 300 competitors. These ideas were discussed. There was some support but it was far from unanimous. It was felt that it would make things much easier but competing against exactly the same clubs each year was not so good. If used, the 100 mile limit should be changed to a travelling time limit. What would happen to the current rotations NEOA/YHOA and EAOA/EMOA? Presumably all clubs from the 2 regions would have to go to one event unless the travelling distance/time rule applied. Separately the NEOA/YHOA split may become 1 year NEOA and 2 years YHOA to reflect the number of clubs rather than the current even split. DA and MC are to discuss this with their clubs – MC at next YHOA fixtures meeting. MC to report back to CSC coordinator.

c. Distribution of heats for 2020 and further ahead.

2020 heats have one potential problem in that the SWOA/NGOC event and the WMOA/HOC event could be rather near to each other. Post meeting AW has said that HOC are aware and will have their event in one of HOC's more northern areas. Otherwise heats have a reasonable distribution and whether or not SCOA puts on a heat should not matter much.

d. Dates further ahead

Suggested dates for heats and final up to 2023 are now on the BO planner.

11. Home Internationals. Host for JHI 2020? VHI 2021?

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There are potential problems again with Home Internationals. Some clubs are getting reluctant to put them on especially the relays and especially if accommodation has to be sorted out. The individual is not so bad as it can often be run alongside another event. As far as is known, there is no host for JHI 2020 although people concerned have been made aware. There is no enthusiasm in SCOA for putting on VHI 2021, and concern in SOA about the relays for the VHI this year though they are likely to happen.

12. Junior competitions.

There was little time for this item. MC will contact Phil Conway to see if there has been any progress with PPJTR hosts. The AFS involved are not aware of any arrangements.

13. Dates for other ESG scheduled events on the main planner for Major and listed National events 2020 – 2022.

No issues to discuss here.

14. Other National events requested by clubs/associations. All national events for the second half of 2020 should be agreed at the meeting. Any requests after that can be made known and added to the database but not confirmed.

The second half of 2020 was checked. No problems. 2 late requests for B events earlier in the year were rejected as they were so late and would cause problems for other events which were planned.

15. Other items.

- a. References to other competitions in notes and from Feb 11 meeting.
- b. Anything else from E&CC, Board, CEO.

Nothing to add here more than is covered under other items.

16. Any BO fixtures database issues.

17. Any other business.

- a. MC requested that details about officials and venues for Major Events go into the database as early as possible so that Ernie Williams has this information when trying to find controllers. MC to circulate what is in the database and try to add more.
- b. There was discussion about communications and particularly whether requests for hosts for some events actually got to the people who might be willing to organise and plan them if they were just sent to club chairs and secretaries. There was a suggestion that something might be added to Peter Hart's newsletters. MC will sort out a list of events needing hosts and then enquire about what communication is possible.

18. Dates of next meetings – 19 October 2019 has already been agreed. 14 March 2020 was agreed for the following meeting. The original starting and finishing times were considered better so for the next meeting it will be as normal – lunch at 12 noon and meeting time from 1230 to 1630.

## **ACTIONS**

- 6a. JP to confirm if NWOA will take on BOC/BRC 2021
- 6b. RJS to ask about SWOA taking on BOC/BRC with Southern Champs in 2022.

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- 6c. MC to consult Major Events consultants. AW to do more checking about Cannock Chase. UW to ask EMOA about contributions to a JK – areas and personnel.
- 6d. British Middles 2021. AW, PAG and MC/PC to ask questions.
- 6e. Brit Spr/BMSR 2023. SM to ask EAOA. Brit Middles – MC, AW, RES to ask about running alongside an Area Champs.
- 6f. All to ask about hosting BNC for 2022 and 2023. MC to communicate further to ask clubs/membership if possible.
- 6g. Area Champs 2022. DA, UW and RJS to ask for dates before October meeting.
8. UW to ask about supporting UKOL event for Midlands Champs. MC to ask PAG to enquire about CoL and whether a supporting event is planned.
- 10a. All AFS to ask about CSC final hosts for 2022 and 2023. MC to ask clubs/members about hosting CSC finals in 2022 and 2023.
- 10b. MC/DA to discuss with clubs and then decide on YHOA/NEOA split for heats. MC to report back to CSC coordinator with opinions about his ideas – nothing unanimous though.
- 17a. MC to try and encourage group to add more detail earlier about Major events venues and officials.
- 17b. MC to prepare a list of events needing hosts and then enquire about ways to communicate with membership rather than just an email to officials from all clubs.