

EVENTS AND COMPETITONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

of Meeting held on Saturday 14th November 2015 at Carrs Lane Centre, Birmingham.

Present: Chris James, Chairman (CJ), David Maliphant, Board Rep (DM), Chris Phillips (CP), Ernie Williams (EW), Mike Hamilton, CEO (MH), Mike Cope (MC), Terry Smith (TS), Sally Pygott, Major Events Manager (SP), Gill James (Min Sec),

EOG – Event Officials Group
ESchG – Event Scheduling Group
MAG – Map Advisory Group

EP&P – Event Programme and Publicity
ESysG – Event Systems Group
TAG – Technology Advisory Group

Agenda Item

- 1 **Apologies for Absence:** Barry Elkington (BE), Graham Gristwood (GG)
- 2 **Chairman's Opening Comments:** CJ welcomed everyone and said that we should concentrate on operational matters before lunch and strategic plans in the afternoon. Whilst recognizing that it is essential to comply with Government Legislation, we need to take a step back and consider greatly simplifying the monster that we have managed to create over 50 years. He called for simplification in much of what we do. Rules should be reviewed to include only the essentials and we need a clear vision of what we want and to encourage people not yet in the sport. Important to sort out who has responsibility from this Committee to ensure that updates are submitted in a timely manner. The Board meets on 3rd December and it is hoped that a clear vision for the future of the sport will then be published. He wanted everyone to think about delegation. The Chair hands to each of the committee the responsibility for an area of E&CC activities, He gives to each the authority to get on with it. He asked that problems be solved outside the Committee and the results be brought back. If members get it wrong, then they are accountable to the Chair but he is accountable to the Board and Membership.
- 3 **Operational Matters – Group Activity Agenda**
 - **Matters carried forward from previous meetings:**

It was noted that the Rules had not been updated on the website to take account of changes made for 2016. JK & BOC Sprints must use Litho printing for WRE courses but can use laser printing for others. BE to send changes to Helen Errington (HE) so that she can update. **Action BE/HE**

Day 2 of JK 2017 to be Middle Distance but needs to have broader consultation. **Action: MC/CP/EW**
 - **EP&PG:** Some requests go to the wrong Group when it is not clear who to approach and should be forwarded to the correct Group for action. The Group remits were broad-based and last looked at 5 years ago. All to look at their current remit and bring it up to date and made fit for purpose as soon as possible so they can be agreed and ratified. **Action All**

Discussion on WREs which ideally should have the IOF Advisor appointed as soon as event is scheduled and certainly at least 18 months before it. Late requests make it very difficult to find IOF advisers. No problems in 2015. We could have 6 WREs in 2016 but we may not be able to get so many. Earlier planning for 2017 means that 6 may be possible. We must make Clubs aware that we need IOF Advisor in place at an earlier date. MC, CP & EW, to agree and issue guidelines for future events. **Action: MC/CP/EW**
- **ESchG:** Planning ahead for 4 years is working well, but gives EOG a headache in trying to keep up with allocating of officials. MC will take decision on Middle/Sprint weekend, which has had difficulties in past, which are not obvious to competitors at the time of the event. We should consider putting a Sprint and Sprint Relay on the same weekend, and putting the Middle Champs with something else. Group did not think they had authority to make decision, and not sure how finances would be affected if Sprint and Middle are separated. Next year will retain Sprint/Middle combination. There are still uncertainties about 2017. For 2018 and 2019 there is currently confidence that the Sprint/Middle combination can work.

Best position is for the 12 Regional Fixtures Secretaries to agree as they can discuss it with MC. MC has authority to make change, but must explain to people why change is made. See minutes of ESchG on website. **Action MC**

SP had set up a timeline and MC has kept it up to date and it is agreed that this should be worked to as far as possible. Some officials do not want to commit 3 years ahead but it really is important to encourage them to do so for appropriate forward planning purposes.

- **ESysG:** TS has prepared a Document on Ranking. MH look at it and come back on possibility of what can be afforded and achieved **Action MH/TS**

Evaluation of Events and issues of levels and competitions. EW congratulated TS and his wife, Diana, on an excellent piece of work. DM said NWOA have their own evaluation method and it would be worth looking at it to compare the method of evaluation. **Action TS**

Membership Structure: Issue of some members belonging to 2 Clubs in different Associations which can cause complications. We need to make it clear to which Association they belong. To be discussed further. **Action all**

- **EOG:**The Board has agreed that attendance at the Event Safety Workshop for all Officials be made mandatory by 1st January 2017 at the latest due to Insurance requirements. Requires amendments to Rules Appendix C and Appendix E. Insurance Company requires accreditation as with Coaching and may come back and say they want this accreditation earlier than 2017. MH spends considerable time, equivalent of 2+ weeks, ensuring we get the right cover and handling enquiries from Insurers. Difficulty finding enough top Officials and the need to be pragmatic and accept that some people will do a good job with help. Follow selection Rules and get the best we can from those available. MH's document on Volunteer Development has been circulated following his meeting in Leicester and MH is congratulated on excellent work on training officials and moving forward. Next meeting to have a discussion on training of Officials and progression through the levels. **Action CJ**
EW to continue contact with Associations with regard to training and other matters within his remit **Action EW**

- **ERG** CP had implemented changes to the Rules. BE to ensure they reach HE for publication. She has remit to re-draft amended Rules for approval and has the authority to then amend the website. **Action BE**

BE has indicated that he will not have Junior competitors in his family for much longer and at some point will not be in an ideal position to look after Juniors' interests. This has highlighted the need for all members of E&CC to consider their own succession and who might be persuaded to follow in each Role. **Action all**

The YBT (an English competition) has issues regarding "gold times" and grading. This needs to be updated regularly. Sue Marsden (SM) should discuss with Clubs that regularly enter comp. CP and BE to work together to keep YBT going. Is Sue Marsden prepared to be the Coordinator? CP to progress and find BOF rep for YBT that includes Junior seeding (Post meeting CJ contacted SM to ascertain her understanding of present situation. She was stood down after the total re-organisation of Groups and Committees about 5 years ago but thought that Sarah Marshall was now responsible). **Action BE/CP/SM**

- **Elite Matters:** Rules Issues: Should we assign someone to look at Guideline changes to British Relays? The Guidelines for JK and BOC Relays should be looked at together. MH has asked GG to look at World Cup and World Championship Rules/Guidelines. We need more analysis from Talent Programme and Development. Easter is too early and JK becomes selection races. GG to link with Jackie Newton (JN) to ascertain what is needed and what should link in with WRE. **Action GG/JN**

- **Board Input:** DM said MH and SP would cover this input.

- **Insurance:** A major issue in that we go out to tender every 4 years, and this is due in 2016. The current insurers will not issue a certificate until the end of December 2015 for year 2016. Renegotiation of cover is too costly once the period commences. Cover is for Public Liability for Club, Association and Members. If we have a non member volunteer this is ok as long as we make it clear to them that they are not covered. If a claim is made against them personally. It is cheaper to pay £5 for BOF membership than change policy. Policy is commercially sensitive and copyright and therefore cannot be published. Email communications between British Orienteering and the insurers also establish a long trail of responses to insurance matters raised. Members should be aware that these constraints are due to the Insurance situation and not British Orienteering.
- **Major Events:** SP monitoring the Major Events. BOC will be handed back to host Club and Association to fully manage with no input from British Orienteering apart from the Competition Rules. A super levy based on x times the previous year's standard levy will be applied. The JK will also be a super levy but the Major Events Manager will be available on a consultation basis which must be budgeted for in the JK finances. Events in 2017 onwards will be organized on this basis. SP is now putting together some events that will meet the needs of the sports tourism market. Also branding, simplification and events such as those put on by Red Bull and Xplorer. Important that people are aware that SP is there to help. UKOL is set up for next year thanks to MC for his hard work on this. SP and Craig Anthony (CA) have been working with Dan McAuley and keeping him up to date on changes.

Strategic Issues

The Board is comfortable with the draft Vision and MH is preparing a Strategic Plan to put to the Board at the December Meeting. It is agreed that Competitive Orienteering is an integral part of the plan. Accreditation of Officials is used more in orienteering than in many other sports that often have less people available and use "the best for the job". We should redefine our grading standards to pick out the essentials and build up to meet needs. The real challenge is getting more people to volunteer.

We should define what must be delivered and work towards that and not let standards slip. Strengthening and growing infrastructure of competitive orienteering is needed. What are key issues around this on which we should work? Local, frequent, same place, consistency, promoted and marketed, meeting and greeting people, and clearer terminology are but a few of the issues. Others could be: "Do we need certain O kit?" "Can people compete in athletics kit for example?"

Complexity of Rules is off-putting - to some people – we must simplify and work our way to an ideal. We should look at Levels of events. Some small events are labeled Level A; e.g. Is BNC a Level A event or Level B? Does it matter? What are competition Rules? We would be better to deal with Competition Rules which are more important than Event Rules/Guidelines. Simplify Levels and have Competition Rules. The challenge for the public is different to that for existing members. Good area, planner and organiser are important to the orienteer, who usually makes a decision on about which events to attend based on personal knowledge/experience. We need a framework which is also suitable for those who are new to the sport. We need a good method of explaining our sport to the general public. Evaluation and asking newcomers how they found their experience are also important.

How do we grow? Get recreational people interested. Have Long, Medium and Short courses and the first challenge is to complete the course. Accompany people for a couple of controls. What do other countries do? Some have a base or sports club, so they can also have social time.

1. Simplification
2. Volunteer Development
3. Competition structure
4. Find a way of giving general public an insight
5. Coaching and Leaders. Meet and Greet
6. Orienteering evenings – meet and greet - social
7. Volunteer Coordinator – to get officials and organise development getting some on pathway to help
8. Create a culture where people take part and help

There is a large market that we need to tap. Orienteering is travelling and navigation and we need to manage people's perception

Are age classes the best way forward? Confusion between A and B events. Negative feedback if people don't want what is offered. We manage, but do not govern.

Something Old and Something New: Old – where are the gaps – Volunteer development and Officials. Craig Anthony and Judith Holt are progressing volunteer development.

There is merit in going back to Associations for comments on "Something Old and New". E&CC's responsibility is to encourage them to be more pro-active. After Focus is published CJ to approach Associations and ask specific and open questions. **Action: CJ**

Board is working on Sports Council support. We should ideally be self funding. This can be discussed at the Club Conference next year.

We expect prospective Controllers, Organisers and Planners of Level A events to have attended a Major Events Conference yet a number of attendees have expressed concern that these Conferences appear to provide no specific training for these roles. We should consider either dropping this requirement or provide a specific training module within the Conference to pass on the knowledge that we feel is appropriate before undertaking one of these roles. **Action SP**

Any Other Business:

EOG has received requests for funding to attend IOF Event Advisors courses. British Orienteering would like to help but there is no money next year to fund this. EW to inform those involved.

Action: EW

The Meeting closed at 15.20

Next Meetings

20th February
2nd July 2016

Both in Margaret Rowland Room, Carr's Lane, Birmingham

Action: CJ