



EVENTS & COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the E&CC Meeting held on Saturday 12th November 2016 at Carrs Lane Church and Conference Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX, at 11:00
[Draft]

Present:

Chris Phillips (CP), Barry Elkington (BE), Mike Cope (MC), David Maliphant (DM), Terry Smith (TS), Ernie Williams (EW)

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

EP&PG – Event Programme & Publicity Group
ESysG – Event Systems Group
TAG – Technology Advisory Group]

1. Apologies:

Mike Hamilton (MH) [British Orienteering CEO]
Chris James (CJ) [Co-Chair of E&CC]
Sally Pygott (SP) [Major Events Manager]
Dave Schorah (DS) [Elite Competitions and Competitors]

2. Minutes:

Ernie Williams agreed to take notes and produce Minutes of the meeting.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting held on Saturday 2nd July 2016:

All present agreed that the Minutes be 'Taken as read'.

4. Actions from the Minutes:

Updates on the relevant 'Actions' were accepted and agreed (**see Appendix A**).

5. Strategic Matters:

David Maliphant, on behalf of the Chair and Board of British Orienteering, and Chris Phillips, on behalf of CEO Mike Hamilton, gave a brief update about the on-going work of the Board regarding the 'Strategic Plan', which will be a major item on the Agenda at the December 2016 meeting of the Board.

6. Reports:

(i) Operational matters raised by Co-Chair Chris Phillips (see Appendix B for tabled Report):

(a) IOF have approved JK 2017 Days 1, 2, and 3 as World Ranking Events.

(b) Appendix C has been amended to show that Event Safety & Welfare training is mandatory for all Event Officials at all Levels and Grades as of 1st January 2017.

(c) It was agreed that the Board be recommended to take action, in support of Event Organisers and amend the current requirement that all competitors carry a hooded waterproof jacket depending on the forecast of imminent or current bad weather conditions, by checking with the relevant wording of the Fell Running Association Rules that have a more stringent requirement regarding the mandatory minimum kit to be carried in 'Long A, Medium A, and Long B Races (FRA Requirements and Rules for Race Organisers 2017) and that there is a check made at both the start and at the finish.

ACTION: CP & DM

(d) The current Competition Rules for Level A events require separate M/W10B Championship courses and White non-Championship courses and it is recommended that the text be amended to allow the courses to be combined and same TD1 course to be used when there is a low number of entrants. **ACTION: CP & DM**

(e) E&CC recommends to the Board that there is a requirement for all Level A Major Events to have a named deputy for all of the Major Officials. Consideration should also be given for there to be named deputies for Team Leaders. **ACTION: CP & DM**

(f) E&CC discussed the need for re-instatement of the requirement that a 'Formal Written Protest' be accompanied by a standard fee of £5.00 following a verbal complaint to the Organiser being rejected. It was

agreed that the current Rules 16.4 and 16.5 do not require amending at the present time and that Event Organisers should ensure that 'Protest Forms' are always available should they be needed by competitors.

(g) It was agreed that any forthcoming Rule changes should be made known to Major Events Organisers in good time so that they can be implemented satisfactorily, either by using the 'News' section of the National web site, as an item in 'Mike's E-News', or by email to the individual Event Organiser. ACTION: CP, MH & EW

(h) Major Events Conference 2016: Chris Phillips reported on a well attended MEC held at Charnwood College, Loughborough, on Saturday 17th September, and a number of items raised at the Conference had been or will be raised during the current E&CC meeting. It is anticipated that a MEC will be arranged for a day in Autumn 2017 that will require a venue and Coordinator.

(ii) Event Scheduling Group: Chair - Mike Cope: (see Appendix C for tabled Report)

(a) UK Orienteering League: It was agreed that a volunteer is required to act as Coordinator/Administrator of 2017 UKOL and beyond, reporting to E&CC, and with the Board having overall management responsibility. Better promotion of UKOL similar to the work of Roger Thetford re UKOL believed to be both welcome and worthwhile. ACTION:

Board and E&CC

(b) UK Elite League: Initial work has been undertaken by Graham Gristwood but Chris Phillips has been given to understand the Graham is intending to stand down from the role. ACTION: CP

(c) UK Classic League: Ed Nichols has indicated his willingness to undertake initial work to set up a UKCL but further information is required. There will be a need for British Orienteering input and approval from the Board. ACTION: MH

(d) Is the Event Calendar too crowded?: Discussion centred on the need for Level A Major Events to be seen to match requirements as listed in the Competition Rules with particular emphasis on the quality of terrain, mapping, organisation, planning and controlling, together with the need for a decision on whether or not there could be flexibility for all Area Championships to be registered as Level B except where the overarching 'quality criteria' can justify Level A registration and status. A method of post-assessment of Events is also required in order to ensure that all aspects of Competition Rules are being met. It was agreed that details of the 'Strategic Plan' and decisions by the Board will have a direct influence on any current proposals as discussed re amendments to the overall structure and scheduling of Events at all Levels and, as such, these and other related aspects will be the main part of the Agendas of both the Board and E&CC in the coming months. ACTION: Board and E&CC

(e) Inter-Regional Co-operation: E&CC were in agreement that the 'borrowing' of one or more quality competition areas for Major Events be reviewed in order to positively encourage co-operation between Clubs and Regions. ACTION: CP and MC

(f) British Mixed Sprint Relay Orienteering Championships: (see Reports from Graham Gristwood re British Mixed Sprint Relay Orienteering Championships (BMSROC) feedback after 2016 Trial Event (Appendix D) and Draft Guidelines for BMSROC (Appendix E).

Discussion centred on fitting BMSROC into the annual Event Calendar, possibly to be part of a 'Championship Sprint Weekend' alongside the British Sprint Championships, with the British Middle Distance Championships being scheduled at a different time in the annual Event Calendar as a stand-alone Event. An offer to host BMSROC in the autumn of 2017 had been received from DEE and a host for 2018 was also under consideration, with further BMSROC Events in 2019 and 2020 a possibility. It was agreed that, following the 2016 'Trial Event' and the availability of draft Guidelines, Graham Gristwood be thanked for his work to date and that he be invited to oversee a second 'Trial' in 2017 using the draft Guidelines as 'BMSROC Competition Rules' alongside a review of 'Course Design and Gaffling', and with 'Elite' teams of four and 'Open' teams of three. Chris Phillips agreed to discuss with Graham Gristwood. ACTION: CP

(iii) Event Systems Group: Chair - Terry Smith: (see Appendix F for tabled Report)

(a) Ranking Working Party: Work on-going re algorithm and revision to Competition Rule 5 overall intention is to get everything as right as possible as soon as possible! ACTION: TS and ESysG

(b) Experiment of combination of Open Colour Coded Classes with Age Classes: (see Appendix G for comment and analysis by Chris Heaton of LEI re the 'Open Colour Coded Course Experiment' at the 2016 Southern Championships & November Classic held on 6th November 2016).

Terry Smith explained the background to the experiment which received many positive comments from participants, including that from Chris Heaton of LEI and, following final revision by Terry Smith, information is to be made available to all Area Championships Organisers by Chris Phillips. ACTION: TS and CP

(c) 2017 Midland Championships hosted by OD: Following a request from Selectors of Junior Elites and the Elite representative on E&CC, these Area Championships to have Middle Distance Events for M/W18, M/W20 and M/W21 Elite classes, E&CC agreed and approved the request. ACTION: BE

(d) 2018 British Middle Distance Championships at Stock Hill: A request had been received for the appointment of a Map Adviser. **ACTION: TS and Map Advisory Group**

(iv) Event Officials Group: Chair - Ernie Williams: (see Appendix H for tabled Report)

(a) Grade A Controller Survey: It was agreed that the remaining 24 Grade A Controllers who had yet to reply to the survey begun in mid-August would be contacted by telephone and/or email. **ACTION: EW**

(b) Re-accreditation of IOF Event Advisers: It was agreed to forward to CEO Mike Hamilton the re-accreditation forms of Philip Gristwood and Robert Hickling for signing and onward transmission to IOF. **ACTION: EW and MH**

(c) 2017 British Orienteering Rules: It was agreed that version 3.5 of the Rules of British Orienteering dated 16th October 2016 and effective from 1st January 2017 be sent to the Board for approval and for this edition of the Rules to replace any earlier versions currently available for viewing on and downloading from the National web site in both the 'Rules' section and the 'Event Officials' section.

ACTION: EW, MH and the Board

(d) Event Official Training Materials: Following discussion it was agreed that:

- Allocation of funding is required in order that all training resources and materials be brought up to date and that the appropriate method or methods of delivery be decided upon, following the implementation of the current 'Strategic Plan' review of the structure of orienteering within the UK; **ACTION: MH and the Board**
- That a volunteer with training background and experience be sought from within the British Orienteering membership to lead the review of future training modules and their core syllabus content; **ACTION: MH and the Board**
- That, in the interim, Ernie Williams is to contact experienced members of British Orienteering within the UK who have in the recent past updated existing materials for courses for Organisers, Planners, and Controllers at all Levels and Grades within their own and other Regions, and to request that these materials be made available for use by Course and Workshop Leaders. **ACTION: EW**

(v) Event Rules: Barry Elkington: (see Appendix I for tabled Report)

(a) New Middle and Long Distance tables for courses and classes at JK 2017: These have been produced with thanks to Simon and Helen Errington for their interest and assistance.

(b) Simplification of Competition Rules for competitors and of the Rules for Organisers, Planners, and Controllers: This work is on-going.

(c) Simplification and availability of the essential Rules of Orienteering for those both new to the sport and those already members of British Orienteering: This work is on-going.

(d) M/W18 and M/W20 classes at British Middle Distance Championships: A request that had been received from selectors for splitting off the M/W18 and M/W20 classes from M/W21 at British Middle Distance Championships in order that there is a similar winning time to that at JWOC was approved.

ACTION: BE

(e) Updating of Course Table: A request that had been received that the course table for the British Middle Distance Championships be updated and that it also incorporates the request of selectors re M/W18 and M/W20 classes was approved. **ACTION: BE**

Discussion also took place on 'Course Tables' and the need to review those in the set of Competition Rules that currently catered for a far larger number of competitors than actually attend, which is between 1000 to 1500 rather than two or three thousand. Currently any requests for changes to number of courses is by submission of a 'Rule Deviation' request. It was agreed and recommended that reviewing and updating the 'Course Tables' should be undertaken by a 'Rules Review Sub-Group' with responsibility to report to E&CC, who would in turn report to the Board, prior to publicising the changes on the National web site.

(f) Proposal to form a 'Rules Review Sub Group': It was agreed to propose to the Board that a representative small group of experienced members be tasked to oversee and review future amendments to the Rules, Appendices, and Competition Rules of British Orienteering that can then be forwarded to the Board via E&CC for approval. **ACTION: CP and the Board**

(g) 'Competitive Colour Coded Courses': The introduction of a limited number of 'Competitive Colour Coded Courses' at Major Events as demonstrated at the 2016 Southern Championships/November Classic, together with updating of the relevant table in the Competition Rule, was approved. **ACTION: BE and TS**

(h) IOF Control Descriptions: Barry Elkington had arranged that information on the IOF Control Descriptions Review was sent to all members of Map Advisory Group and to all Controllers on the database by Scott Walker at National Office, and this had proved to be a worthwhile and valuable exercise.

(i) 2017 Middle Distance Championships: Mike Cope raised the matter of changes being proposed to the Course Table for the British Middle Distance Championships which were being supported by the Elite Selectors. It was agreed that Barry Elkington be tasked with amending the table in light of comments from

E&CC and others, and to then discuss with Mike Cope and the other members of E&CC with a view to having the proposed amendments approved and then publicised prior to 2017 Event. **ACTION: BE**

(j) Brief discussion on 'Short Courses': The discussion centred on whether or not there was a need for Short Courses being available, on the availability of 'Short Courses' encouraging both participation and fair competition, and the possible need for differentiation between competitors having a timed start and non-competitive participants having a punching start. It was agreed to make no recommendations for changes at the current time.

(vi) Chief Executive Officer: Mike Hamilton: In the absence of CEO Chris Phillips went through a number of items on behalf of Mike Hamilton:

(a) JK Day 2 – decision as to whether Middle Distance Event remains or reverts to a Long Classic Distance for all competitors other than Elites after 2017: Chris Phillips agreed to contact JK 2017 Coordinator Linda Pakuls re use of 'Survey Monkey' to ascertain views of competitors. **ACTION: CP**

(b) JK Days 1, 2, and 3 and annual application to IOF for World Ranking Event status: It was agreed that applying to IOF for WRE status for these Major Events should happen on an annual basis for the foreseeable future. **ACTION: CP and MH**

(c) Changes to British Relay Championships Guidelines re M/W70 class: Barry Elkington agreed to check about this item and report back. **ACTION: BE**

(d) British Orienteering Disciplinary Code: A question was raised as to who is informed and how when action has had to be taken? Chris Phillips agreed to check with Mike Hamilton as CEO and the Chair of the Board and report back. **ACTION: CP, MH and JH**

(d) Eligibility Rules re British Championships: If 'tick box' is available at Pre-Entry to ensure that 'Eligibility' box can be ticked by an individual competitor entering their appropriate class then it is believed that this will aid the Organiser who will not then have to manually check entries. Chris Phillips agreed to contact Major Event Entries Program providers. **ACTION: CP**

(vii) Board of British Orienteering: David Maliphant: (see Appendix J for tabled Report)

(a) Extraordinary General Meeting: Large majority in support of Option 1. Good and supportive comments had been received regarding Mike Hamilton's informative articles re British Orienteering income and expenditure prior to the EGM. David Maliphant on behalf of the Board made it clear that, following the result of the vote, British Orienteering would not by any stretch of the imagination be "awash with money"! The Board is to make applications to Sport England for very specific funding to aid required projects.

(b) Report to Board: David Maliphant indicated that, at this point in the meeting, he would be reporting back to the Board on the following:

- Event Scheduling Group matters;
- Rules amendments;
- Bad weather clothing and Fell Running Association Rules

ACTION: DM

(viii) Ecard Contact and Contactless Control Punching: Pre-meeting a detailed round of emails had been circulated on the topic of Ecard Contact and Contactless Control Punching with contributions from Mike Hamilton (CEO), Terry Smith (ESG), Barry Elkington (Rules), Chris Phillips (E&CC), Allan Farrington (EMIT) and Martin Stone (SPORTIdent). At the start of a very lengthy discussion about Events that had a mix of contact and contactless Ecards being used by competitors, Terry Smith indicated that he had to declare an interest in EMIT although he was not a representative for the EMIT system and volunteered to leave the meeting temporarily, and it was ruled by the Chair that this was not required. The discussion concluded with a number of agreed points as follows that needed to be sent for the attention and approval of the British Orienteering Chair and members of the Board and the Chief Executive Officer, before being publicised for the information of the membership.

- It is recognised that the use of contactless cards provides a significant advantage compared to contact cards so the mixing of the two types in competition could be viewed as fundamentally "unfair".
- The concept of 'fairness of competition for all' is paramount above any other considerations regarding the make or type of Ecard in use at an Event;
- If an Event is to have a mix of contact and contactless Ecards in use as designated by the Organiser then provision must be made for competitors who are not contactless Ecard owners or users to hire a contactless Ecard either free or for a modest fee for use on the day or days of the Event;

- It is hoped that Clubs belonging to British Orienteering will be able to have available for loan contactless Ecards either free of charge or for a modest fee at all Levels of Event in order to allow individual participants to experience the use of a contactless Ecard;
- Planners must place controls at each site on a course of whatever Technical Difficulty as far as is practicable at any Level of Event in such a position that the control is equally fair for competitors with either a contact or contactless Ecard.

It was agreed that the wording of these four points would be circulated to those E&CC members present to confirm accuracy;

ACTION: EW

David Maliphant agreed to circulate the four points to members of the Board in order to facilitate any required change in the Rules, Appendices, and Competition Rules as they apply to Event Levels A, B, and C in line with the E&CC recommendations being approved, and that these changes are then to be publicised to the membership of British Orienteering.

ACTION: DM

Chris Phillips agreed to contact Linda Pakuls, Coordinator of JK 2017, to alert her to the decisions made by E&CC with regard to the proposed use of a mix of contact and contactless Ecards at JK all four Days in April 2017;

ACTION: CP

7. Any Other Business:

(a) Date and venue of the next meeting of E&CC: Saturday 25th February at Carrs Lane Church and Conference Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX.

There being no further business to be conducted the Co-Chair closed the meeting at 16:16.