

**Event Scheduling Group Minutes  
Meeting held in Birmingham (Carrs Lane)  
Saturday 15 October 2016 – 1230 to 1630**



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

Thanks to Tony Biggs who is standing down after long service as Association Fixtures Secretary for EAOA. Also thanks for his contribution to work on the fixtures database. Thanks to Terry O'Brien for temporarily standing in as Association Fixtures Secretary for SOA.

Welcome to Sarah Mansel as EAOA's new AFS, to Andy Robinson standing in for Philip for SEOA, and welcome back to Paul Caban returning as AFS for SOA.

2. Record of persons present, and apologies. Meeting expenses.

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

David Pal (DP) - WOA

Sarah Mansel (SM) – EAOA

Richard Sansbury (RJS) – SWOA

Duncan Archer (DA) – NEOA

Andy Robinson (AR) – SEOA

Allan Williams (AW) – WMOA

Ursula Williamson (UW) - EMOA

Jean Payne (JP) – NWOA

Paul Caban (PC) - SOA

Chris Phillips (CP) – Events and Competitions Committee Representative

Apologies

Joe McClure (JM) – NIOA

Philip Gristwood (PAG) – SEOA

Richard Sharp (RES) – SCOA

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 YHOA rep and ESG chair.

4. Minutes of Fixtures Group meeting held on 12 March 2016.

a. Accuracy. Accepted as accurate but noting brevity of some items.

b. Actions from meeting.

9 MC to check 2017 UKOL details Sept ready for publication. Being done.

9 2018. MC/JP/PAG to do some checking of event types. Still being done

9 2018. MC to check whole Sept/Oct/Nov programme. Not considered necessary now.

9 2019 – UW to get preferred Spr date and find out if middle possible. Date and is middle possible with N Champs (JP) or S Champs (RJS). Sept dates now fixed for Spr/Mid weekend in EMOA.

9 2019 – key dates to go into BO database Apr/May – MC. Done.

11 2018 heat venues needed early Oct – All. Later in minutes.

13 2018 YBT – AW to ask. 2018 BSSC – RES/RJS to ask. 2018 BSOC – DA/JP to ask. 2018 PPJTR – all to ask. No from NEOA re BSOC 2018. Some other detail later in minutes.

13 DA will enquire about the need for accommodation and a Saturday event plus any other Sat activities for BSOC. Done - full reply from DA sent to all on 13/3/16. Accommodation does not need to be arranged by host club, but note need for World Schools Qualifier in even years.

15 All AFS to ask associations about permanent JK middle with info back to MC by mid June. Done and reported back to E&CC.

19 MC to book meeting dates with Scott. Done.

5. Scheduling timetable.

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Below are targets from the scheduling timetable about what should be done at this meeting. The timetable does need extending and distributing to all group members especially new ones. MC to do this.

2018 Club level B events to July to be finalised.

2019 Details/dates finalised for JK and Brit Champs etc. UKOL checked. Dates and responsibilities agreed for other ESG scheduled events finalised.

2020 Responsibilities to be agreed for JK, BOC/BRC, Brit Spr/Mid, BNC, CSCF & Area Champs.

6. JK, British Long/Middle/Sprint/Night Champs, Area Champs. Confirmations of dates for 2019 and responsibilities for 2020. Where do we include the British Mixed Sprint Relays?

Some date and venue errors in planner corrected for 2017 and 2018. One 2018 issue to settle – likely that Southern Champs will have to move from 4 Feb to 25 Nov. Agreed that this should not affect what is currently scheduled or its inclusion in UKOL, that both dates should temporarily go in the fixtures list with the alternative date indicated, and that PAG/AR get a decision by the end of Nov 2016.

2019 BOC/BRC date in as 11/12 May. Bank Holiday weekend might have been preferred but for unknown route of Tour de Yorkshire taking place. Southern Champs should be OK for 31 March with BOK Trot. NW are struggling for an area and date for Northern Champs. Could a swop be done with YHOA? MC and JP to follow up on this. DA also to ask NEOA but unlikely to be possible.

The above led to a wider discussion about maintaining such a crowded programme of big events. It is sometimes difficult to find a date and venue for the Area Championships and respect the 2 year embargo. Solutions get found but not without difficulty. Could be much easier if there was more flexibility to combine Area Champs with other events and at either level A or B. Not really logical to give level flexibility to Welsh and Scottish Champs but not English Area Champs. Could an Area Champs be combined with the JK or BOC? Could an Area Champs be combined with an event that always happens but would not consider level A status e.g. White Rose? MC to take discussion back to E&CC.

Club/venue in SE still needed for 2019 CSCF but should be OK. Maybe no decision until after 2017 JK.

Responsibilities for most major events in 2020 should be OK. All need to look for a CSCF host for 2020. Northern Champs responsibility needs sorting out depending on 2019 decision. Start looking at major event dates at next meeting.

Although formal approval for British Mixed Sprint Relay is still needed from E&CC/Board, possibilities are being looked at. Ideas for 2017 were for it to go with a DEE event on Aug 19/20, with the BOK Blast weekend in June, or with the Harvester. Nothing from BOK Blast, basic Harvester plans not advanced enough, so DEE offer looks most likely. August not as good as June but acceptable. Clashes rule out some June dates in 2017. NATO have an urban in Morpeth in June 2018 – DA to enquire about possibility of adding BMSR to this. RJS to enquire about adding to Brit Spr/Mid weekend. CP to pass on guidelines and 2016 report to JP/DA/RJS and JP to contact SYO for 2016 comments. Decided to find 2017 and 2018 solutions before going further.

British Sprint/Middle combination seems to be working up to 2021. NIOA are working on it for 2021. Leave while it is working. Adding BMSR always a possibility if at the right time of year.

BMSR added to planner in anticipation of approval by Board/E&CC.

7. UK Orienteering League and Year Outline Plans.

- a. 2017 still needs finalising but almost ready to send to Focus. AW to check on which 2 days of SinS to include. List updated. Good balance of event types with Caddihoe (not Chase) now offering middle and long.
- b. 2018 – events mostly in place. Done on year planner. Southern Champs and combining event to sort out. June/July and Oct depend on other decisions. MC to update and/or identify needs as other decisions are made.
- c. 2019 – basics on year outline plan. Need to make decisions about June and Oct/Nov and about supporting events but leave until nearer next meeting.

8. UK Elite Orienteering League and Junior Elite League – plans for 2017 and beyond. World Ranking Events.

Nothing that ESG needs to do about 2017 elite leagues except to be aware. Minimal likely detail on year outline plans. Midland Champs likely to be Sprint/Middle for junior elites as was the case with Northern Champs in 2016.

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WRE events also noted on 2017 year outline plan. 3 long/middle but only 1 out of 3 sprints from permitted allocation. 2018 WREs – JK but could BOC and Brit Spr be added. CP needs to know by end of year. PC and RJS to pass on to organisers.

9. Compass Sport Cup and Trophy.

- a. Associations taking on finals from 2019. SE should be OK for 2019 but nothing beyond yet.
- b. Distribution of heats 2018. Some information in. Discussion worthwhile because AFS are now aware of likely happenings in neighbouring associations. North not ideal for NE with SYO and likely SELOC/PFO but acceptable. WRE OK for WM and WOA. SMOC likely for EAOA and far enough away from SE heat south of London. SW and SC seem OK. It would be helpful if all AFS concerned could get plans into database – events are already there but with no club or venue detail.

10. Home Internationals.

All seems OK at the moment. Would be helpful if NIOA and SOA could confirm 2019 dates. PC thought SOA 2019 date would be OK.

11. Junior competitions timetable and rotations for the next few years.

We seem to be having difficulty finding hosts in good time for some junior events. 2017 OK. Worrying that for 2018 only BSSC seems to be fixed so far. Best hopes are that RES will ask BAOC for PPJTR 2018, AW thinks YBT final should be OK, and NW likely to do BSOC if nobody else will. Nothing for 2019 – MC will look at whose turn it is before next meeting.

YBT heats 2017. Most now identified and indicated on database. SM, PAG, RES, RJS to identify events in their associations.

12. Other ESG scheduled events on the main planner for A and listed B events 2017 – 2019.

Revised JIRCs rota now OK. Usual Harvester problems but offers come. BUCS now very organised with rotation plans for the next few years. Added into our planner so that we can be aware. Nothing much for ESG to do except to advise about possible dates. Seems to be working well for 2017 and 2018.

13. Other level B events requested by clubs/associations. All B events up to July 2018 should be finalised. Any later requests can be made known and added to the database but not confirmed.

All dates for 2018 were checked and first half of 2018 can be assumed as fixed. No serious issues found later in year. Only issues identified were 15 Apr and 10 Jun where SOLs clash with a LOC event and the Morpeth urban if it expands to become UKOL and take in the BMSR. PC aware of the problems and may consider moving dates or having northern SOLs on these dates.

Agreed that NWOA weekend should stay on first weekend in Nov 2018. Race the Castles in Yorkshire either goes to 2019 or uses the NWOA events as the final weekend. To clash would not be acceptable.

14. Items to mention from July E&CC meeting and Major Events Conference.

MEC – one day format worked. Very economical. Useful to meet people. Inputs good and relevant from past organisers/planners rather than outside service providers.

E&CC to meet in Nov. CP will be taking over operational matters and will chair the next meeting.

15. Any BO fixtures database issues.

There is still the problem that the date filter does not work when editing events. MC suffers most as list is not so long for others with more limited access. To be referred again to BO office.

Tony Biggs has offered to continue in his role with the database although he is no longer the EAOA representative on ESG. Agreed that he should continue if he is still willing to look at any issues that arise and continue to have full access same as MC so that he can be a substitute for MC should it be necessary. Best if he remains on the ESG circulation list for these tasks. MC to check with him.

16. Any other business.

MC mentioned his role as chair of the group. He will not stand in the way if anyone else wishes to have a go. Agreed it would have to be a current member of the group with knowledge of the system to take over. MC willing to carry on for a while especially if E&CC responsibilities change a bit which they might – MC more interested in operational matters than strategic ones although the need for both is accepted. There is a need though to consider succession as chair of ESG.

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DP mentioned rumours about hosting the World Masters in Wales in 2020. Nothing much known about this but good to be aware of possibility. Also World University Orienteering Champs got a mention in the 6 day meeting minutes but little more known about it.

Earlier in the meeting, the group discussed responsibility for UKOL. ESG's role is to schedule the UKOL series following principles established – spread throughout UK, date spread, type of event balance, weekends of events preferred as people likely to travel. Beyond that there is no ESG role in taking responsibility or ownership of the league to report and monitor etc. MC/CP to mention at E&CC. Noted that SM looks after the YBT events now and useful to have her on ESG.

Again earlier in the meeting, the crowded calendar of events was discussed. ESG has so far managed to find hosts for events but the difficulty must be appreciated by E&CC. A review is not likely to achieve much as so many events are the responsibility of others. How long can clubs and associations withstand the pressure?

It was also established earlier in the meeting that major events should cover the whole of the UK, even though in some years, events may be at the extreme ends of the UK. Consequences such as reduced numbers must be accepted by the organisers, ESG should spread the events as much as possible and encourage use of the best areas for orienteering wherever they are.

Army areas – permissions and costs getting more difficult.

JP mentioned example of French Championships – many different discipline champs crammed into one week.

There was discussion about whether the second day of the JK was to permanently be a middle distance. No further clarification from E&CC/Board. Will be a middle in 2017 and 2018 and certainly can be in future years if organisers wish. Perhaps easier to make a decision depending on how it goes down in the next two years.

17. Dates of next meetings – 11 March 2017 (already agreed) and 14 October 2017 agreed (decided best to avoid usual CSCF weekend in 2017) MC to ask BO office to make arrangements.

#### ACTIONS

5. MC to extend Scheduling Timetable and then distribute to group members.
6. PAG/AR to get decision on date of 2018 Southern Champs by end of November 2016.
6. MC/JP to sort out a plan for 2019 Northern Champs asap. Then plan for 2020. DA also to ask.
6. MC to take wider discussion about Area Championships back to E&CC – again. Combination and level flexibility.
6. PAG – club to host CSCF in 2019. All to ask for CSCF host for 2020.
6. JP to follow up DEE possibility for British Mixed Sprint Relay 2017 and DA/RJS to ask about 2018 possibilities.
6. CP to pass on BMSR guidelines and 2016 report to JP, DA and RJS.
7. AW to check on SinS for UKOL to finalise 2017.
7. MC to update 2018 UKOL plans and identify any further needs depending on other decisions.
7. 2019 UKOL to be looked at again nearer or at next meeting – MC.
8. PC and RJS to mention 2018 WRE possibilities to BOC and Brit Spr organisers.
9. SE, SC, SW, EA, NW, SOA 2018 CSC heats - clubs and venues needed in database – appropriate AFS.
10. PC/JM to confirm 2019 dates for VHI/JHI.
11. RES/JP/AW to chase up possibilities for 2018 junior events.
11. MC will look at 2019 junior event responsibilities.
11. SM, PAG, RES, RJS to identify 2017 YBT heats in their associations.
13. PC/JP/DA aware of potential clashes and may need to take action depending on decisions made.
13. MC to go back to YHOA with decision about Race the Castles in Yorkshire.
15. MC to check with Tony Biggs about database. Also to get the date filter working again.
16. MC to mention UKOL responsibility at E&CC.
17. MC to ask BO office (Scott) to make arrangements for next 2 meetings.