

TrailO Committee

Friday 02 August 2013, 16:45

Held at Brodie Castle, Forres



Attendees: Dick Keighley (DK), Chair & SWOA; Ian Ditchfield (ID), SEOA; Anne Hickling (AH), SOA; John Kewley (JKew), NWOA; Christine Roberts (CR), YHOA

Apologies: Anne Braggins (AB), EAOA; Scott Collier (SC), Board representative

1. Chairman's introduction and opening

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. Attendance and apologies

There were apologies from Anne Braggins and Scott Collier. Christine Roberts was hoping to attend the meeting but was likely to be late.

3. Conflicts of interest declarations

Everyone present had sent in their 2013 declarations. JK, ID & CR were currently team members or potential team members for GBR.

4. Minutes of previous meeting on 23 Feb 2013

These were approved.

5. Matters arising (not on agenda)

There were no matters arising.

6. UK Ranking events 2013

a. JK 2013 – 7/8 April 2013

DK reported that the JK TrailO events had been a success despite the difficulties encountered in their organisation. Attendance had been encouraging, although the cold weather at Hambledon had reduced the number of competitors entering the Novice class on Day 2. JK commented that the courses on both days had been enjoyable and well planned, although the decision not to give Ranking status to the Day 1 event at Reading University Whiteknights campus was probably justified. The Elite course on Day 2 had been an excellent and challenging course. DK noted that SCOA had not been able to provide any officials on the day and that all the helpers had been members of either WAOC, WIM or GB TrailO squad members.

b. British TrailO Championships 2013 – 5 May 2013

The event had been a success in both numbers competing and in the quality of the courses. ID, who was Planner/Organiser reported that Helpers had been sourced largely from the community of retired civilian orienteers who regularly competed in the army's midweek events and who were not competing in the British Relays on the same day as BTOC 2013. Income/expenditure for BTOC 2013 had been absorbed into that of the BOC2013 weekend.

DK noted that the competitor numbers had been good and that there now appeared to be a good number of regular foot orienteers who also competed in TrailO events when the opportunity occurred.

c. Moray 6-Day TrailO – Wed 30 July 2013

This event was held in an area of the Culbin Forest on the rest day of the 2013 Scottish 6 day event, planned by Beryl Blackhall (SELOC) and Anne Hickling (GRAMP), and organised by Roger Scrutton(ESOC). The event had attracted 106 competitors, making it probably the largest TrailO event seen in the UK, and had produced much favourable comment from those who competed. Any surplus from the event would go to SOA for further TrailO development in Scotland.

d. Other events 2013

JK reported that the ITOC 2013 date was not yet confirmed but the potential planner, Wilbert Hollinger (LVO), hoped that it would be held in conjunction with the NIOA FootO Championships in County Down in October.

CR confirmed that there would be a short TrailO course on the Sunday of the White Rose event. It had been hoped to plan a longer course but the venue is only available on Sunday and has to be fitted into the gap between the end of the FootO courses and the late afternoon prize giving ceremony.

7. UK events 2014

JK 2014 is in S Wales. DK has identified suitable terrain for any TrailO events. There is limited TrailO experience in WOA and most of their membership will be involved in the FootO competitions. It is hoped that WOA will be able to provide planners, with controlling probably done by a member of the TrailO Committee and on the day officials being drawn from clubs outside the region.

Because of the geographic locations, AB had suggested she would try to hold her envisaged EAOA event in 2014.

8. Ranking List

JK had offered to take over the production of the Ranking List from NC, who was no longer on the Committee. NC was to produce a final list including the results from BTOC 2013 after which JK would take over.

9. Selection Procedures

With the retirement of NC, a new selector would be needed for 2014. As our new Board representative, SC would be the obvious replacement for NC, but RK, as Chair of the Committee, was prepared to act as a selector if SC felt he needed more time to familiarise himself with the TrailO scene.

10. UK Team review

The recent WTOC2013 was discussed. Some members of the team were unhappy with the very literal and perhaps over zealous application of the rules by some officials at the TempO competition, which they felt went beyond the spirit of fairness expected. The new team kit had met with approval.

11. IOF matters

IOF were proposing to change the rules over the scoring the timed controls. There was also likely to be a relay competition in future WTOCs. The committee was broadly in favour.

12. Development Grant

The Directors had finally approved the committee's proposals for some of the WTOC 2012 surplus to be used for TrailO development. New team kit had been purchased in time for use at WTOC 2013 in Finland, TrailO equipment (flags & canes) had been purchased for use in Scotland, and there was money available for use in the development of InTrO at events. This was to be progressed steadily, region by region, beginning with SOA, followed by EAOA, together with regional coaching workshops to train new TrailO planners and officials.

13. Publicity/Focus

ID promised to produce a report on WTOC for CompassSport & CR for Focus.

14. Any other business

JK suggested that the use of some of the closer Nordic events as selection events to supplement the few ranking events in the UK might be a possibility. Possibilities for the development of more Paralympic competitors was as also noted.

15. Date and venue of the next meeting

The next meeting would be in February, probably in Birmingham.