

British Orienteering
Minutes of MAP GROUP meeting
at 11am on Friday 9 September 2011
at Southcliffe Road, Nottingham



- Present David Olivant (chair), Bruce Bryant, Robert Dove, Erik Peckett, Rod Postlethwaite, Christine Roberts, Colin Spears
- M11/41 Apologies
Peter Roberts, David Peel
- M11/42 Declaration of Interest
No changes since April meeting
- M11/43 Minutes of previous meeting
Minutes of the meeting held at Blackthorn Close on 1 April 2011 were accepted as a true record. Matters arising covered in Agenda.
- M11/44 Notification of AOB
Map Group structure in light of reorganization
Major Events Conference 2011
- M11/45 Review of Action List (1 April 2011)
1. The map advising criteria circulated to major event mappers when known - completed
2. Map advisers reports circulated in advance of meeting - completed
3. Download symbol set extended to OCAD 10 and numbering anomalies corrected – to be made available on web site.
4. Symbol size comparison sheets prepared.
5. Following input from other committees revision of Appendix H is ongoing.
6 & 7. Training and accreditation plan >>agenda M11/53
8. Course for EPOC held on 3 July 2011
9. Conference>>agenda M11/46
10. Review quality of major events maps >>agenda M11/49
11. Dick Whitworth (NWOA) and Bill Brown (SWOA) have been added to the circulation list as correspondent representatives. A job specification has been written.
12. Research into services provided by Swiss printer ongoing
- M11/46 Chairperson's report
The report was circulated prior to the meeting and is at annex A below.
Meeting updates:
 - It was agreed that a suitable meeting location in Birmingham should be pursued. The possibility of using Skype for those unable to attend was suggested.
 - It would be beyond the map group remit to make any general recommendation on the WMOC map scales issue.

- The suggested scale of 1:10000 for CSC Final maps is supported.
- The Map Notes emailed recently is a useful communication channel. Names of course attendees must be added to ensure the list remains current. Clubs could be asked for details of their mappers to correct any current omissions.
- It was felt the map group should be a committee of experts with correspondent association reps.
- Update received from Event Managers regarding insurance and the implementation of event number system. MG regrets the move from the current map registration system because of the loss of information such as identification of new mappers, scales and extent of area, etc. Such data would be advantageous in the accreditation process and to identify mapping trends. It does not make provision for POC maps.
- In response to an email question confirmation was given that crags can occur between contours and that a road edge can be replaced by walls/fences.
- Chairman will present a session on Map Clarity at the Major Events conference.

- M11/47 Map advising and map advisers reports
 The latest position was circulated prior to the meeting.
 Map group chair has been relieved of map advisor duties in order to be neutral in the event arbitration being sought. Therefore BB will oversee BSOC2012 and BMOC 2012 with CR doing terrain checks for the sprint. A terrain checker may be required for the British Middle Championships 2012.
 There are possible legibility issues about the area for BMOC 2013 owing to small pockets of detail.
- M11/48 ISOM201X revision
 EP appealed for examples of before/after map generalization.
 Further revision will follow comments from member nations. Send EP any further comments or suggestions.
 Additional guidance (inc photographic) is planned for showing appropriate features (size, separation), identifying vegetation screens.
- M11/49 Review of recent major event maps
- BOC/BRC2011: Planner added detail to the Wharnccliffe map. At Tankersley the mapper was also one of the planners. Lots of generalization and removal of small detail improved legibility at 1:10000. Sample competitor maps have yet to be received.
 - JK2011 Officials provided some feedback. Sample competitor maps to provide support and context are awaited.
- M11/50 Map Conference 2011
 Draft proposal circulated in August. It is possible the lead-in time is too short and a 2012 date should be considered.
- M11/51 Digital Mapping Project
 RD showed a composite of the contour data obtained from various sources overlaid on the existing O map. The cost, degree of coverage (even around London) and suitability varied widely. Research continues to find a quality

product that is cost effective and widely available. An application for funding has been made to Development Group.

- M11/52 Map printing
CS circulated a spreadsheet assessing aspects of printing quality for samples submitted by commercial/club print machines.
- It was felt that approved club printers are suitable for events up to level B only.
 - Approval would be for the machine, operator and paper of the sample submitted.
 - OCAD Colour table numbers will be available and they should be checked/adjusted on the print machine before each job.

- M11/53 Training and accreditation plan
An overview of the accreditation and training scheme was presented. This was followed by wide ranging discussion. DMO thanked EP, RP, and RD for their input.

- M11/54 British Orienteering website
RP is identifying map related content on website with the intention of suggesting improvements that could aid access.

- M11/55 Any Other business
MG structure – dealt with under 11/46
Major Events conference – dealt with under 11/46

- M11/56 Reporting and Actions
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| 1 | Updated symbol sets to be made available on web site | TBA |
| 2 | Symbol size comparison sheets to be made available. | TBA |
| 3 | Keep central register of map course attendees and add to circulation list. | TBA |
| 4 | Circulate accreditation presentation to MG and correspondents for further consideration. | DMO |
| 5 | Revise Appendix H to eliminate ambiguities with other appendices, to clarify map symbol downloads, map printing, insurance position and map registration.
Provide an abridged version of Map Notes for Focus/website | DMO |
| 6 | Send holding letter to mappers who have submitted sample maps for accreditation | DMO |
| 7 | Consider suitability of pdf files as accreditation evidence and for assessment | All |
| 8 | Discover data fields linked to event registration numbers and issue statement to keep mappers informed. | DMO |
| 9 | Organise an assessment of chosen area for BMOC 2012. | DMO |
| 10 | Continue to expand register of correspondent association reps. | DMO |
| 11 | Research into services provided by Swiss printer ongoing | EP |

Next meeting to be arranged for January 2012
Meeting closed at 18.00.

Map Group (09/09/11) Annex A

Chairperson's Report

Organisation of Map Group Meeting:

I have made a few changes to the way that the meeting operates. Please let me know if you have any suggestions. I expect the meeting at Nottingham to be a one-off and will look to make other arrangements for the subsequent meetings. I intended to set dates for future meetings but have left this for now as the Governance proposals are under discussion. I have not been made aware of any specific affect on Map Group at this time.

Correspondence

World Masters Map Scales:

Rules Group have proposed that the map scale for all long/cross country races for M/W35/ 40 is changed to 1:10,000 as this scale is used for 2011 and 2012 WMOC events. There is no support for this from Map Group as there is no technical reason for the change and the 2011 WMOC guidelines state that that the normal scale for M/W35/ 40 is 1:15000. Whilst these guidelines do allow exceptions, the Map Group view is that this alone should not lead to an overall change in UK; any change should follow consultation and agreement between IOF Foot Orienteering and the IOF Map Commissions.

CompassSport Final Map Scales:

The Map Advisor process has identified a desire for the CSCF maps to be at 1:10000 for all classes. Map Group does support this, our understanding is that the intention for the CSC Final to be at Level A is to enhance the prestige of the event rather than impose the Level A scales. However there may be occasion when a 1:15,000 scale is required for large areas for the longer courses.

Map Group review of 2011 level A events maps:

Map Group was asked to assess these but is unable to provide a comprehensive response as there is nothing in place to obtain the map file and we are dependent on competing at the event to see the map. A procedure is required, both for Level A and Level B events. No results of the map survey have been seen by Map Group.

Appendix H

A revised version was submitted for comment and approval in April. However this revised version had been overtaken by the Event Guidelines published in January 2011 and Appendix H has been further revised and resubmitted for approval at the next Events Meeting.

Map Registration

The revised Appendix H refers to using the event registration number as the map registration number. The latest position on the event registration number has been requested from British Orienteering.

Map Assessment

There have been continuing discussions about map assessment for both Level A and B event maps, including assessment of the printed competition map. Whilst recognizing the need for feedback, there is no agreement about a practical mechanism. This is likely to have an effect on Map Awards and it is difficult to see how these can be decided in the future.

Relay Mapping

At the Events meeting on 18th June, it was agreed that there is a need for a separate piece of work to identify issues raised by recent relays and how they may be addressed, including "Map Group needs to consider the appropriate map scales to be used and how the clarity of maps can be improved." Major Events are to set up a relay working group. The courses (and maps) for older competitors appear to be a particular issue.

I have not yet had an opportunity to liaise with Major Events but following Map Group discussions the key points are:

- There is no support for treating relay maps differently from other competition maps
- The mapping of detailed areas exposes the split between those who would prefer a larger scale and those who prefer a standard scale with generalized detail.
- This issue is particularly evident with some, but not all, older competitors.
- The attempt to define a legibility standard was an interesting exercise and illustrates the challenging nature of maps and visual perception. Map Group will consider preparing an article for Focus on this issue.

Map Group Association Representatives

Dick Whitworth NWOA and Bill Brown SWOA are welcomed as Map Group correspondents and have been added to the circulation list. They are providing useful input. It is expected that SOA may propose representation in the near future. Erik Peckett has put together a job specification:

- 1 The primary role of Map Group correspondents is to pass on the views of their Association on mapping matters.
2. They will not normally attend Map Group Meetings.
3. To pass on information, requests and ideas between Map Group and Associations
4. Input to Association Newsletters from Map Group minutes where appropriate.
5. Collect and maintain a list of mappers within the Association.
6. Provide support for Map Group meetings and conferences within their area.

I see Items 5 and 6 as being desirable rather than in any way essential.

Communication with Mappers

Following circulation to Map Group of the draft Mappers' Notes with information from the April meeting, the office suggested that this should be brought into a proposed Events Newsletter for wider circulation. The Notes have now been updated and sent out as an interim measure.

Lack of transparency of mapping issues has been raised as an issue and Map Group should consider the best way of tackling this. Suggestions so far include resurrecting Map Nav and a Mappers Blog.

David Olivant
4 August 2011