

# Trail O Committee Minutes 14<sup>th</sup> July 2012



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**Meeting held at the Carr Lane Church Centre, Birmingham on Saturday 14 July 2012 at 10:50**

## **Present**

Dick Keighley, Chairman (DK)	WIM, SWOA
Neil Cameron (NC)	NGOC, Board TrailO liaison Director
Alan Gartside	LVO, NIOA
John Kewley (JKew)	MDOC, NWOA
Christine Roberts (CR)	EBOR, YHOA
Christine Vince (CV)	KERNO, SWOA

## **Apologies**

Anne Braggins (AB)	WAOC, EAOA
Ian Ditchfield (ID)	MV, SEOA

### **Chairman's introduction and opening remarks**

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

### **Attendance and apologies**

There were apologies from Anne Braggins and Ian Ditchfield, and from John Kewley who would arrive after the start of the meeting.

### **T12/18 Conflicts of interest declarations**

Everyone present had sent in their 2012 declarations. NC remained a Selector and JKew had acted as Team Manager at the recent ETOC & WTOC.

### **T12/19 Minutes of previous meeting on 11 February 2012**

These were approved. The action list was reviewed and all actions were ongoing, complete or on the meeting agenda. The question of levies at TrailO events would be considered by the Board in due course.

### **T12/20 Matters arising (not on agenda)**

DK advised that he had contacted Sarah Hague twice about team uniforms but without reply. JKew, as Team Manager, had then arranged to borrow some kit for ETOC/WTOC and the items have been returned.

JKew joined the meeting.

#### **UK TrailO events 2012**

**BTOC** had been held at Newborough in March and thanks were expressed to ERYRI for the local organisation and for donating a small surplus to the British team, and to MDOC and DEE volunteers. There had been about 50 entrants with more than 50% from abroad. JKew and Wilbert Hollinger were thanked for the huge amount of work they had done.

**JK 2012** had TrailO on two days with John Crosby planning, AB controlling and DK organising. John Crosby had to travel 4 hours each way to reach the venue for any work he did, and also had to deal with storm damage to his control sites. John in particular was thanked for his efforts. JK 2012 was also used to train timing officials for WTOC 2012, with IOF Event Advisor Juri Turto in charge.

There had been about 60 entrants one day and about 70 entrants the other. The Day 2 area was open to the general public on what was Easter Sunday, and some flags were moved/removed and eventually 3 controls were voided. In retrospect, DK felt it perhaps should not

have been a ranking event. NC commented that more thought needed to be put in at the JK TrailO as the majority of participants were newcomers to TrailO and many needed briefing on what to do and on the norms and rules to be followed. JKew confirmed this, saying he had found people leaving the trail and entering the terrain, as well as shouting to others about which controls were correct.

CR advised that a TrailO course on each of 2 days will be held at **White Rose** in August but will not be a ranking event.

DK was reviewing whether the **Caddihoe Chase** in September could still have a TrailO event, as there was a worry about very high vegetation. It would not be a ranking event if it went ahead.

AG said that **ITOC 2012** will be held on 6 October in Binevenagh Lake, in NW Derry. There may be additional TrailO events on other days. ITOC 2012 would be a ranking event. AG agreed as soon as possible to request publicity on the British Orienteering web site about the event and the fact that it would be a TrailO ranking event.

### **T12/21 UK events 2013**

**JK 2013 in SCOA.** DK reported that Events and Competitions Committee had sought guidance from the Board on the position of TrailO at JKs. The Board had confirmed that they expected TrailO to be part of JKs although the TrailO Committee would be expected where necessary to supply expert skills and resources.

DK agreed to follow up this Board decision with Katy Stubbs, the JK Co-ordinator. White Knights at Reading University would be used for the Sprint event and the area and map might be a possible venue, also reducing workload. JKew suggested two days, with the first day designed with newcomers in mind, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> day a ranking event with the hope of attracting some of the newcomers from day 1.

**BTOC 2013.** 5 May 2013 at Newlands Corner near Guildford has been identified. It is about 5 miles from BOC relay day area, and will probably be held in the afternoon. A suitable map exists, but SEOA have still to gain access permission, although not thought to pose difficulties. Ian Ditchfield will be planner. Possible controllers were identified and DK agreed to suggest names for Ian to confirm one.

AG said that **ITOC 2013** was being considered in conjunction with the NI Championships in autumn 2013.

CR said that she hoped that if this year's White Rose TrailO was successful, it would be repeated in 2013.

### **Team review**

JKew had acted as Team Manager at ETOC in Sweden. Over 3 days, there were good performances, with Sarah-Jane Gaffney as a newcomer doing especially well, as did Charles Bromley-Gardner. The team finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the team competition.

JKew highlighted some conflicts of interest that arose when he acted as Team Manager, eg the team selection at the event, and whether a protest should be made (that could affect his personal result). Team declarations at ETOC were required before the full results of the previous day's competition were known. He recommended that a Team Manager should not be a team selector at the event. He thanked the team for their supportive attitude, working as a team at the event and sharing responsibilities.

At WTOC JKew also acted as Team Manager. Team selection was again required. The team finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the team competition. Ian Ditchfield had a perfect score on day 2 and an overall 5<sup>th</sup> was our highest ranking Open class performance ever.

Performance at TempO was very good, given typical ages of podium-placed competitors.

The team wanted to thank the many people involved in staging the event.

#### **T12/22 IOF matters**

DK reported that he had sent a further reply to IOF after their clarification of the revised Paralympic eligibility criteria and suggested that this be publicised more widely. He had been pleased to see the IOF web site publish the details shortly thereafter.

#### **T12/23 WTOC 2012**

The TrailO Committee wanted to record their thanks to the Co-ordinator, Anne Braggins, the local Organiser, Anne Hickling, and all the many other volunteers who assisted in the successful staging of the event. There was a general discussion of issues and problems that arose in connection with the event, as well as of course those aspects which had been positive, such as the accommodation and its facilities.

It was noted that feedback suggested the main difficulties which arose were due to lack of manpower (or the time planned to do certain work), weak communication (especially between groups with different responsibilities), and lack of experience of officials in certain areas. Despite these problems, everyone had worked extremely hard to resolve any issues and to make any difficulties mostly invisible to the teams.

Public races had been held but there had not been a large participation.

The Committee felt that all the issues that arose should be collated and documented for future reference. The financial outcome had not yet been finalised.

#### **WOC/WTOC 2015**

WTOC 2015 still has no host and IOF have asked British Orienteering informally whether they would consider staging WTOC 2015 alongside WOC 2015. The Committee discussed the advantages of staging the event, together with difficulties that would likely be encountered such as availability of volunteer manpower and skills.

The Committee felt that the question mark over availability of sufficient volunteers (given the demands of WOC and the 6-day event) meant that we should not offer to stage the event unless those volunteer requirements could be met. This seemed to the Committee to be a decision primarily for British Orienteering, the WOC 2015 Organising Committee, and SOA and the Scottish 6-day Company. UK TrailO did have skilled people who were expressing definite interest and willingness to take on the key specialist roles.

#### **Selection procedures and ranking list**

The Committee discussed whether both days at the JK should remain as ranked events given that it was claimed that some participants competed as pairs but in some cases had compared their answers during the course, and that some participants had left the trail to examine control sites more closely. The Committee agreed to keep the ranking status unchanged.

DK also commented that he had had feedback saying it was unfair that Trail orienteers who lived abroad were required to compete in UK events to get on to the ranking list for selection purposes. A discussion ensued on whether the existing selection requirement of the top two ranked competitors with one selected using "all known form" was still appropriate given that more of the likely team contenders currently lived outside UK. The Committee agreed to leave the selection procedure for 2013 unchanged as the demands on foreign-resident contenders were not thought to be unduly onerous.

#### **Coaching & training resources**

CV said that at Lagganlia (M/W14/16s) in two weeks time there would be TrailO exercises designed with DK's help.

The “Year in a Box” Community-O resource (actually a CD) was held by those clubs involved in the participation projects. DK would attempt to get TrailO included in future.

### **Funding**

DK reported that the TrailO international budget would be smaller in 2013 although NC reported that the Board had not yet set the final 2013 budget.

### **Publicity/Focus**

DK reported that the most recent edition contained an article about BTOC and JK TrailO, but had been heavily edited and the map reproduced at a small scale. DK would ensure that an article reached Caroline for the next edition.

### **TrailO Rules and guidelines**

AG had received no further input on his Rules. The agreed subgroup of AG, JKew and DK agreed to continue their work.

### **Any other business**

**TempO team selection.** JKew raised the issue that TempO was not covered specifically by the current selection procedures. However, given that there were no UK-ranked TempO events and the Rules at the events which were held varied somewhat, it was agreed that the selectors should select teams based on TrailO results and the TempO team from those selected for the TrailO competition.

**Ranking.** JKew had examined the implications if the ranking rules were amended to include all BOF people who had competed at an event rather than just those who were eligible to represent UK. He had discussed this with Brian Parker who had made the point that it should not depend on the “by chance” entry of a good foreign competitor. Some examples showed that the effect on the UK-eligible person’s ranking points was significant. This effect only occurred if the foreign competitor scored higher than any UK-eligible competitor.

The committee agreed that the ranking rules should remain unchanged.

**Searching fixtures list for TrailO event.** AG raised the issue that TrailO was no longer a searchable option on the fixtures list. NC agreed to investigate and get this rectified.

**Events in 2014.** The possibility of having BTOC alongside the British Sprint/Middle Championships was raised. JK 2014 would be in Wales and DK agreed to contact Helen Errington about initial plans for TrailO inclusion.

**Change of time penalty rules.** The Committee had been requested informally through JKew by the IOF TrailO Commission Chair to give their observations on potential changes. We were asked to consider using the changed rule in our future events, but as WTOC would operate under the existing rules, the Committee declined to do this until after WTOC 2013, although they accepted the idea looked beneficial.

NC said he felt such approaches from IOF should be made formally to British Orienteering.

**Development of officials.** Time precluded discussion on this item.

### **Dates and venues of future meetings**

The Chairman said that he had been asked by National Office as a way of reducing expenses to consider holding future meetings in Matlock, where room hire would be free. The Committee were asked their views and information on cost differences and time involved was collated. The feedback would be given to National Office by DK. The Committee understood the need to bear down on governance expenses and after discussion of various ways of holding remote meetings, agreed that a trial of phone conference call should be conducted with the possibility of moving to one face-to-face meeting and several conference calls per year. Use of a private TrailO Committee forum such as Google Groups was also suggested for selected topics.

DK planned that the next meeting would be held on Saturday 16 Feb 2013 in Birmingham. Final confirmation would be sent by end September 2012 at the latest.

**Close of meeting**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.10 pm, thanking everyone for their attendance and contributions.