

Senior Competitions Group

Minutes of meeting



Senior Competitions Group

held on Saturday 10th July 2010
at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham
commencing at 12.00 noon

Present:

Ranald Macdonald (RM)	Chairman
Alun Jones (AJ)	WOA
Ursula Oxburgh (UO)	EAOA
Dave Peel (DP)	Events Manager
Andy Robinson (AR)	SEOA
Richard Sharp (RS)	SCOA
Mike Cope (MC)	Chairman, Fixture Group
Barry Elkington (BE)	Chairman, Rules Group
Scott Collier (SC)	SWOA

Apologies:

Graeme Ackland (GA)	SOA
Andrew Kelly (AK)	YHOA
Ed Nicholas (EN)	Development Manager
Dick Towler (DT)	NWOA

2 Declaration of interest.

This was duly done and there was a very brief discussion about the responsibilities of elected Association representatives on Groups and Committees.

3 Notification of any other business

Four items were raised. (see item 11. AOB)

4 Terms of Reference

The terms of reference were read and the following points came about:

- It is intended that the group meet at least once a year with additional interim teleconference to be tried to increase group efficiency and address the reservations that some members have over meetings.
- A brief discussion about what are the group's KPI's. With the following being expressed:
 - Meetings
 - Stated priority tasks
 - Feedback/communication with associations

This led on to a brief discussion about the structure and functionality of Events Committee and its Groups.

5 Competitions Structure Consultation

There was a discussion covering various aspects of the document including:

- The questions which the group should comment with the National section being the most relevant to the Group's remit.
- The distinction between leisure and competitive orienteers.
- The spread of events across the calendar year
- The pro's and con's of staging certain championships at different times of the year
- The limitations of terrain availability at certain times of the year and in certain parts of the country
- Whilst the group agreed with point 15 - City races or 'Urban orienteering' should fit within the competition structure although be designated so that those members who do not enjoy such orienteering can avoid them if they so choose? - it was pointed out that there were other criteria which influence competitors' enjoyment which should be considered i.e. events on distinctly unpleasant terrain. There was concern then that urban events were being singled out.
- Area leagues similar to the Scottish Orienteering League were suggested as a possible competition format that was not well provided at the moment.
- The opportunity to compete in one class, as was the case at the British Elite Sprint Champs, was recognised as being very rewarding for many competitors and there was concern that this was now going to be lost with the new combined sprint championships format.
- Within the discussion the following criteria were regularly cited as being important;
 - A spread of competitions throughout the year
 - A geographical spread
 - A range of disciplines
 - Age class competition and competition based on the ability and fitness of the individual was important.

6 Major Event Strategy

DP gave a brief introduction and background to the paper, which generated a number of questions and debate:

- There was agreement that there is a need for a Major Event Strategy
- There was agreement with the majority of the criteria attributed to the Major Events but some criteria generated heated debate:
 - Concern was expressed about reducing the number of classes at the BNC.
 - Concern was expressed about changing the classes in the JK relay though it was recognised that making a distinction between the JK and BOC relays was positive. Family teams/mixed clubs teams were suggested for consideration.
- Event atmosphere was suggested as important additional criterion.
- The group looked forward to seeing the next stage in the development in the Major Event Strategy.

7 Courses for senior competitors, including JK relays and BRC

Events Committee had requested that the Group need to gather more evidence on the subject to see what issues there are and then to make proposals accordingly. There was a discussion about the format and content of a questionnaire and how to circulate it. It was agreed that RM would draft some subject areas and questions and circulate these around the group. The results would be sent to Mike Hamilton to assist him in producing the final

questionnaire. It was agreed that it would be beneficial if the questionnaire is circulated to Club Captains, Individual Competitors (through a JK2010 participant mass email from the online entries provider) and posted on the British Orienteering website. It was also agreed that gathering evidence on the Harvester would be of use to the group so should be included in the questionnaire.

8 Implementation of the 4 tier events structure

RM reported this from the recent Events Committee meeting. There was a brief discussion and it was reported that Quality was also being considered as a method for distinguishing between tiers in addition to target audience/participation, competitions/ranking and administrative responsibility. Events Committee favoured criteria to put an event into the fixtures list were: Level 1 MEG/National Fixtures, Level 2 National Fixtures, Level 3 Association and Level 4 Clubs.

9 A possible Masters Cup

DP asked if it was something which could be redeveloped as a competition which senior competitors would appreciate. It was proposed that it would follow the form of the UK Cup. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and that RM and DP would meet up and produce some principles and a draft programme of events for the competition.

10 CompassSport Cup

The group was made aware that Peter Guillaume was happy to continue to act as the event coordinator, acting in an administrative role, with the competition rules and first round events delivery being the responsibility of Senior Competitions Group and the delivery of the final being the responsibility of Major Events Group. There also needed to be consultation with other Groups, as appropriate, such as JCG, Rules and Fixtures. A general discussion about the event followed briefly covering the quality of the finals. It was agreed that any development of the competition, the qualifying events and final should recognise the unique characteristics and objectives of the competition.

11 Any Other Business

▪ Seeding of competitors at major competitions

There was a general discussion about the need and possible options which could be adopted. It was suggested that the number of competitors to be seeded could either be reduced from 20 to 10 per class or set at a percentage of entries. Start intervals would be set to reflect the nature of individual events.

▪ Course lengths for older female competitors

A request was made for appropriate course lengths. It was pointed out that there was provision for this with the Very Short Green course but that the problem appeared to be that it was rarely provided. It was suggested that it could be a requirement of an event being accepted at a certain level that the full range of course be provided.

▪ World Masters Orienteering Championships bid

The Group was asked if staging the WMOC in Britain would be beneficial to participants under the remit of SEG. It was agreed that it would and there was encouragement for a British bid to host the event.

- **Harvester Relays**

The Group was asked to consider the Harvester and what should be the future of this event and make any suggestions for the event's development. There was general discussion with a number of suggestions for consideration:

- Review course/leg structure
- Review organisational structure – could the event be organised year on year by the same people/group to give continuity or be championed by an individual.
- Review team eligibility i.e. allow adhoc teams.

12 Reporting and Actions

- RM and DP would meet up and produce a draft programme of events for the Masters Cup competition.

- RM would produce a draft set of subject areas and questions for the relay review and circulate around the group

13 Next meeting

Provisionally 8th or 15th January 2011

Proposal for a teleconference in the Autumn. Date TBC