

Event Scheduling Group Meeting Minutes
2 pm to 4:20 pm via Zoom
Saturday 13 March 2021



1. Chairman's opening comments.

Some of what we managed to sort out at the last meeting soon became unworkable as further restrictions and then lockdowns came. We still need to be positive about the future though, so plans still need to be made even if they are going to be changed again. As at the last meeting, much of the planning is in hope rather than certainty, and we know that many permissions are still on hold, impossible to obtain at the moment, or we dare not even ask until the Covid crisis settles down.

Thanks to Allan for hosting the Zoom meeting. Again it is good that the meeting has a representative from all 12 associations.

2. Record of persons present, and apologies. Stephen welcomed as the representative for Northern Ireland for this meeting.

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

Kerina Lake (KL) - WOA

Richard Sansbury (RJS) – SWOA

Jean Payne (JP) – NWOA

Sarah Mansel (SM) – EAOA

Richard Sharp (RES) – SCOA

Allan Williams (AW) – WMOA

Chris Phillips (CP) – Chair of Events and Competitions Committee

Ursula Williamson (UW) - EMOA

Paul Caban (PC) – SOA

Philip Gristwood (PAG) – SEOA

Allie Wilson Craw (AWC) – NEOA

Stephen Gilmore (SG) – NIOA

3. Declaration of interests and any other business.

MC as YHOA representative and chair of ESG.

4. Minutes of Event Scheduling Group meeting held on 17 October 2020.

a. Accuracy. Just one minor change of a name spelling.

b. Actions from meeting.

6b. All AFS to make their clubs aware of matters mentioned in 6b from the latest CEO update.

Assumed to have been done.

6b. MC will check POCs/VOCs – when it applies and how it works. **Guidance appeared on the BO website in a news item dated 17 Dec 2020 and there have been more mentions since.**

6b. MC has asked for latest Forestry England agreement to replace old one on BO website. **This is now on the BO website in the Resource Library.**

8b. MC/AWC to discuss possibility of a joint JK for YH/NE in 2025. **Considered worth discussing by some in YHOA. Needs to be followed up further with NEOA and YHOA.**

8d. Date needed for British Middles 2024 by next ESG meeting – MC. **This has been chased up but still no firm answer mainly because nobody can get permission sorted in the current crisis.**

8e. Date needed for British Sprints and BSRC 2024 by next ESG meeting – AW. **AW checking suggestions from MC – 3 dates in June.**

8f. NIOA to make a decision about including BSRC with Brit Sprints and Middles 2023 – DO or RF. **NIOA would prefer not to include the Sprint Relays.**

10b. SM to find a date for Midlands Champs 2023. **SM still looking into this.**

10b. MC to try and find a solution to a host for the Northern Champs in 2023. **SYO likely to do Champs on 26 Feb.**

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- 10c. AW, UW, SM to confirm the suggested rota for 2024 onwards for the Midlands Champs. **Now accepted.**
- 11b. AWC to find out about NATO Euro City Races and then MC to finalise UKOL 2021. **No UKOL so far in 2021 and unsure if any Euro City races planned.**
- 13d. MC collecting responses to the options for 2021 heats/final and will then liaise with PG and CSC group. **No heats for 2021 (would not have happened anyway). CSC 2020 final in 2021.**
- 13e. MC will coordinate plans for 2022 CSC heats when 2021 plans are finalised. **Ongoing – some in place.**
- 15d. RJS, UW, PAG – dates needed for 2021 YBT heats. JP – decision of possible date change for NW heat. **Some of these unlikely to happen anyway.**
- 15f. UW to check on suggested BSSC final hosts for 2022 and 2023. **Should be OK as on planner.**
16. PC to check on FVO as hosts for Harvester in 2021. Then MC to ask CLOK and SYO. **Harvester hosting by FVO now put back to 2022.**
- 17b. JP to check the SROC event on 27 Feb 2022. **Clash with SYO Double and BUCS.**
20. MC to make arrangements for next meeting on 13 March 2021. **Being done.**
5. Events list and scheduling to be done.
We are well behind with this because of plans that could not be made. It will be updated as far as possible. It has not been done yet and there is limited value in spending too much time on it. Using the background colouring for dates when it is updated, we should have completed blue for 2025, green for 2024, yellow for 2023 and red for 2022.
Club level B events for the second half of 2022 to be agreed and finalised.
6. Reports from other meetings.
- Major Events coordinators have provided information about the rescheduling of British Champs for 2021.
 - Orienteering in England is expected to restart on 29 March. Events at any level can be held providing they meet government BO guidance. It is hoped that there will be clarification of travel guidance by BO after further guidance from the Dept of Digital Media, Culture and Sport hoped for on 22 March. BO has done as much as possible so far with provisional guidance for England. Guidance and dates could well be different in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - but all are gradually being updated. Permissions are still a major problem – BO is trying to work with the MOD and Forestry over permissions.
 - WOC 2024 dates likely to be 12-16 July. A 2023 Euromeeeting in Scotland before WOC – Oct dates being discussed. MC has provided comments on dates for both events.
 - CP mentioned that there is discussion happening about how transgender athletes can be accommodated in orienteering competitions. Anyone wishing to contribute can get in touch with CP.
 - CP also mentioned that E&CC is to set up a working group to consider course lengths/winning times for womens' courses after a request to the Board that there should be some equivalence between courses for men and women. Anyone wishing to contribute can get in touch with CP.
7. Reports from associations. The only items mentioned were that S6D 2021 was hopeful and plans continue to be made, but it was not a certainty and a final decision will be taken late Spring. Lakes 2022 is barely under discussion with so much concern about the NWOA British Champs in 2021.
8. JK, British Long/Middle/Sprint/Relays/Mixed Sprint Relays/Night Champs.
- Confirmation, identification of dates and areas, responsibilities as appropriate 2021 to 2024.
 - JKs. JK 2021 cancelled. 2022 and 2023 OK. Joint WM/EM for 2024 seems OK. Rota beyond 2024 was checked as far as possible. MC & AW need to check with YHOA and NEOA about a

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joint effort in 2024. SWOA may be willing to step in if there is a problem with the rota in a future year.

- c. BOC/BRC 2021. Hopefully this will now happen on Oct 2/3 2021, but not quite confirmed. It will not include a BRC. The intention is to hold the original 2020 BOC/BRC on either 19/20 or 26/27 March 2022. A decision on the date is expected soon and clubs with planned events on one of those dates will need to be contacted. BOC/BRC 2023 OK and date fixed. 2024 NE provisional date now in planners. Rota beyond 2024 was checked as far as possible.
- d. British Middles. 2021 event with the Northern Champs is hopefully moving to 5/6 June. 2022 could have been affected by new owners of the land, but this is being followed up and should be OK. 2023 to 2024 should be OK, but date still needed for 2024.
- e. British Sprint and Sprint Relays should be OK up to 2025, but permissions are still a concern. Cannot confirm permissions for 2022. Date needed for 2024 – OD considering suggestions for June date. The Sprint Relays will not be included with the NIOA Sprint/Middle weekend so a host is needed ideally on a big Sprint weekend in June.
- f. Plans to hold British Middles and British Sprints with NIOA in 2023 are OK. The dates will coincide with the Irish Champs to be run on the previous weekend, so this weekend should be kept free of big events in the rest of the UK. Hopefully there will be a programme of events in Northern Ireland during the intervening week to attract visitors. Tio Mila still looks like it is on 20/21 May so hopefully no clash.
- g. BNC. 2021 has been moved to 27 Nov. 2022 and 2023 should be OK. Nothing firm for 2024 though WCOC have expressed an interest – JP will check.

9. International Events.

These have now been updated in the database using information from from IOF Eventor and the Swedish Base programme.

10. Area Championships

- a. Southern Champs 2021 moved to December. Midlands Champs 2021 uncertain but could still be held as a no frills event with SINS. Northern Champs 2021 hopefully now in June with British Middles.
- b. Northern and Midlands Champs in place with dates for 2022. Southern should have been with BOC/BRC, but RJS looking for an alternative now the 2022 BOC/BRC is likely to be in SEOA – possibly with Caddihoe in September.
- c. 2023 dates needed for Midlands – SM checking. Southern with BOC. SYO will host Northern Champs.
- d. The new Midlands rota including EAOA is confirmed.
- e. The 2021 Scottish Champs has been moved back a few weeks to 13 June to go with a SOL.
- f. The 2021 Welsh Champs have been moved back to 12 Sept.
- g. The Irish Champs rota has dropped back another year, but will be swapped round so that the Leinster year still coincides with NIOA's British Sprints and Middles.

11. UKOL and Year Outline Plans.

- a. Year Outline plans have been updated as far as possible.
- b. 2021 – a UKOL is possible. ESG considered it was worth trying to hold it with about 16 possible events identified on the year planner and starting in June. MC to check with UKOL coordinator.
- c. 2022 – just the basics are in. More events need adding in the autumn as all championships linked to UKOL are in first half of year. Left until next meeting
- d. Year Outline Plans exist for 2023 and 2024 but only the known basics are in.

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12. UK Elite Orienteering League and Junior Elite League. World Ranking Events. Unsure of Leagues and selection plans with so much cancelled and travel restrictions. MC will try to find out more.
13. Compass Sport Cup and Trophy.
 - a. 2021 final will be for 2020 finalists. No heats in 2021. DVO cannot get permission for Chatsworth for final, so hopefully OD hosting in Sutton Park where permission is normally OK, but it will not be considered until June.
 - b. It has been agreed with the CSC group and FVO that the 2022 final hosted by FVO will stay as planned. 2023 can stay with BOK as planned – later than usual. There are possible future offers from WCOC and SYO.
 - c. 2022 heats. Currently QO and SUFFOC have the Feb date. MV, WCOC, HALO and SOA club have the March date. BKO is considering a SCOA event and a POTOC event near Stoke is likely. Both to decide whether February or March. Spread of events does look reasonable but Stoke is nearer to many in EMOA than the EAOA heat.
 - d. KL asked about why Wales never hosted a heat. Probably not an option as member numbers so small, but no reason why such an option should not be considered in the future.
 - e. 2023 heats will be discussed at October meeting and associations need to have some idea where they will be held. Current plans in the north are for an NWOA heat in Feb near Runcorn and a NATO event near Newcastle in March. WMOA and EMOA ought to consider these locations when planning their events.
14. Home Internationals.
 - a. No further developments on changes known about, so we can only work with existing plans. Apparently waiting for England response so MC will try to pass this on.
 - b. 2021 plans OK as far as is known.
 - c. Dates but no clubs in place for JHI and SHI for 2022. VHI 2022 will be run alongside a later than usual Welsh Champs.
 - d. 2023 JHI OK with FERMO. Dates in place for SHI and VHI.
15. JIRCs, YBT, PPJTR, BSOC, BSSC, BUCS.
 - a. JIRCs dates and likely host clubs in to 2023.
 - b. YBT heats 2020. 3 of these took place in 2020 before the lockdown with 7 Trophy and 3 Shield clubs qualifying. At the last meeting we did agree that these clubs could participate in the 2021 final if they just entered a partial team for 2021, but the suggestion is that this requirement is ignored in the present circumstances. Heats were held in 2020 for NE, SE and EA.
 - c. YBT heats for 2021. Most heats are already cancelled or will have to be cancelled. However, the feeling of the meeting was that we should try to hold this competition. Heats can be arranged for some regions. SM is coordinating plans with the first events likely to be on 16 May. AFS to pass on to clubs that it is hoped that the competition can run, and then later the details of rearranged heats. The biggest problem seems to be with the Midlands and at least one heat is really needed in WMOA or EMOA.
 - d. 2021 YBTfinal. BOK still willing to host it.
 - e. YBT final – hosts and dates OK up to 2023.
 - f. PPJTR. With the uncertainty over relays and accommodation for youngsters, the 2021 event has been cancelled. There are provisional hosts for 2022 and 2023 which are OK as far as is known. WCOC will not move from 2021 to 2022 but are willing to host the event sometime in the future.
 - g. BSSC. EPOC 2021. DVO and LEI for 2022 and 2023.
 - h. BSOC. Hosts rearranged as on planner.

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- i. BUCS cancelled again. SHUOC should be OK to host in 2022 alongside SYO's 50th anniversary event. PC to ask if EUOC will host in 2023.
16. Harvester. FVO hosting now deferred to 2022. BAOC will host in CLOK country in 2023. CLOK and SYO have shown interest in hosting the Harvester.
17. Other National events requested by clubs/associations.
- a. All National events up to mid-2022 were fixed at the last meeting. It was agreed that ESG will continue to be flexible with requests for rescheduling cancelled events. As now, MC will check with all AFS as any requests come in and they are likely to be permitted so long as any changes do not significantly affect other events.
 - b. There were no clashing issues identified with National events for the second half of 2022. As usual, any requests missed can be added within a couple of weeks of the meeting with agreement from all, but it would be best to avoid this.
 - c. Any requests for National events further ahead can be made known and added to the database, but they will not confirmed until later meetings.
18. Any BO fixtures database issues. None
19. Any other business.
- a. Cancelling events. All remaining events in the database in England have been cancelled up to 28 March. PC and KL will deal with the Scotland and Wales ones as necessary.
 - b. Some moves have been made because of the 2022 late Spring Bank Holiday change to Thurs/Fri 2/3 June. All should be aware.
20. Dates of next meetings –16 October 2021 and 12 March 2022 were agreed. Using Zoom was agreed again for the 16 Oct meeting. It was decided to try a later starting time of 3pm.

ACTIONS

- 8b MC & AWC to consult on joint YHOA/NEOA JK 2024.
- 8c MC will chase up BOC/BRC 2022 date and inform all including clubs affected.
- 8d Date for 2024 AIRE British Middles needed for next meeting – MC.
- 8e Host needed for British Sprint Relays in 2023 – All.
- 8g JP to check if WCOC are interested in BNC 2024.
- 10c SM finding a date for the Midlands Champs.
- 11b MC to contact UKOL coordinator about a possible late-starting league for 2021.
- 12 MC to try and find out about Elite Leagues and selection plans.
- 13 Decisions needed about 2022 CSC heats from POTOC and BKO – place and date - RES and AW.
- 15c All England/Wales AFS asked to pass on to clubs the intention to run the YBT competition and to assist SM in trying to find rearranged heats.
- 15i PC to check with EUOC about hosting BUCS in 2023.