

# Trail Orienteering Steering Group Meeting

Virtual Meeting on Zoom, 21 April 2023

## 1 Present

Richard Keighley WIM, Iain Philips LEI, John Kewley MDOC, Graham Urquhart OD, Liz Urquhart OD, Christine Roberts EBOR, Ian Ditchfield MV, Tom Dobra TVOC, Wilbert Hollinger LVO, Anne Hickling ESOC, Charles Bromley Gardner BAOC, David Jukes, Colin Duckworth TVOC

## 2 Chairman's introduction and opening remarks

2-1 GU Welcomed David Jukes to his first meeting.

2-2 The committee asked GU to write to Clive Allen and express its thanks for all the work he has put in to TrailO publicity over the years.

## 3 Conflicts of interest declaration

3-1 GU and LU will retire from the meeting while the appointment of the Team Manager is discussed, as they are both interested in this decision.

## 4 Apologies

4-1 Apologies were received from Nick Barrable SYO, Scott Collier BO and Clive Allen SN

## 5 Minutes of previous meeting (6 February 2022) and Matters arising

5-1 None

## 6 Review priority items for this meeting's agenda

6-1 It was agreed to follow the published agenda.

## 7 International events and teams

7-1 IP took over as chair for this item. After advertising for volunteers for Team manager for the GB TrailO team for 2023, LU had applied. With GU and LU recused, the meeting agreed to confirm LU as Team Manager for 2023. Liz will make the necessary numbers of entries in IOF eventor in April based on previous years.

7-2 LU reported that there was no consensus for a polo shirt design, and that as a result was planned to proceed with the purchase of Tops and Jackets as planned. When a design can be agreed, a polo shirt will most likely be obtained from lower cost non-sporting

suppliers of logo-ed clothing. LU will aim to complete the purchase before the WTOC, and will be writing to obtain payments from those who have expressed interest.

7-3 GU had circulated the terms of reference for the selectors as agreed with British Orienteering for information.

7-4 Neil Cameron had written to GU regarding getting more publicity for the opportunity to include juniors in the GBR team, and to provide a development route for these juniors, noting the good performances of some juniors at the JK. This would aim to get more juniors prepared for ETOC 2024 and later. This will be a theme in the future publicity. When the working group on Experienced Orienteer engagement is operational, this will also be an area of focus.

## 8 Event updates

8-1 WH reported that preparations were in hand for the BTOC in May 2023. Final details will be published in the next few days

8-2 AH reported that arrangements for the Moray 6 Days event on Roseisle . Offers of help would be welcomed and can be made directly to the organiser Roger Scrutton (ESOC). There are already 92 entries. Karen Darke had also contacted AH to possibly bring more P class entries.

8-3 BRITOL events 2023 – it is expected that further Britol events may emerge (for example LEI in the autumn). This year's programme will be sufficient for the results, but it was noted that JK had organised 3 of the counting events (at JK2023), and so was not likely to be able to get a full set of results.

8-4 Future JK format – It was agreed to review the JK 2023 to see what can be taken forward to future years, and to not lose any lessons learned. This will take place over the next few months.

8-5 The IOF (through JK and Anne Straub) are actively seeking volunteers to run major TrailO events from 2025 onwards. It is noted that GBR have not run any WRE or a major TrailO event in recent years. We could target ETOC2026/2028 or WTOC 2027/2029, but would need to establish our ability to run such an event and adopt current electronic systems before making a credible bid. This would require running one or more WRE on ToePunch/Ant event in 2024/5. It is possible that LEI and OD would support some initial events in the Midlands.

8-6 All to consider timing and format with a view to bid for a WRE in 2024 or 2025, noting that the Midlands clubs have a significant commitment (JK and British Sprints) already in 2024.

## 9 Proposals for 2 development subgroups (see TOR for discussion)

9-1 The proposed areas of focus (terms of reference) for 2 subgroups had been circulated for comment. These were accepted as a basis for starting these groups:

- One focussed on growing participation in the P-Class communities.
- One focussed on growing participation from other orienteers

9-2 . We are now need the committee to find volunteers or nominations for up to 3 people on each of these, including a proposed leader of each. All to provide ideas at the next meeting for nominations.

## 10 Publicity (DJ) – [see report]

10-1 The committee welcomed DJ who is now managing the website and newsletter

10-2 DJ suggested that we need a public presence on Facebook, alongside the private members area. This was agreed,

10-3 It was noted that the term 'mini site' is being deprecated as then public description of the British Orienteering TrailO website, as the content has now expanded.

10-4 The logo currently in use for TrailO in British Orienteering has become old fashioned, and no high quality versions exist so it is difficult to use. DJ has engaged British Orienteering to create a replacement logo within their guidelines, possibly getting permission from IOF to use a derivative of the IOF TrailO logo.

## 11 IOF update (JK)

11-1 See attached presentation.

11-2 The method of applying for athletes licenses has been automated, and a mandatory 'fair play' training will be required for major events. New speaker guidelines are being prepared.

11-3 The rules for PreO sprint are not finalised, and JK will be providing input from the JK event experience

## 12 Action updates

12-1 Actions from the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were all completed

## 13 Any other business

13-1 The committee passed on thanks from the Selectors and others to John Kewley for the huge effort in running 3 successful events at this year's JK.

13-2 The Orienteering Foundation and British Orienteering have agreed to allow the IOF to use the TrailO video, and to add IOF branding, which will increase the value and use of the video, and underlines the quality of the work.

13-3 Anne Straube had asked us to consider nominations for the IOF TOC from the junior/under 30 age group.

13-4 In the discussion of running more or larger events, and the management of ToePunch ownership if we obtain this, IP suggested that it may be worth considering forming a club within British Orienteering to make this easier. This could be separate from the Subcommittee and could own equipment, run (or assist in running) club level events and be a focus for a larger event organisation. IP/GU to consider the pros and cons before the next meeting. RK noted that this had been considered before and was rejected, so we should establish what was proposed then and what issues prevented it being taken forward.

## 14 Date of Next meeting

14-1 . GU to arrange the next meeting in a similar 90 minute time slot in about 6 to 8 weeks at 19:30. It was suggested that the use of an online availability voting service had helped to choose a time and should be continued

## 15 Actions from previous meeting and action list

15-1

Ref.	Item	Action	Who	Update
<b>New actions 31 august 2022</b>				
<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	All to consider a mechanism for awarding the Anne Braggins trophy	<b>All</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>
<b>New actions 6 February 2023</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>8.3</b>	Publish the Team Manager invitation	<b>GU</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>7.2</b>	Draft terms of reference for working groups	<b>GU</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>3</b>		David Jukes should be invited to join this Group	<b>GU</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>New actions 21 April 2023</b>				
<b>1</b>		LU to progress the purchase of BGR kit.	<b>LU</b>	<b>June 23</b>
		Lessons learned from JK 2023	<b>GU/JK</b>	<b>July 23</b>
		Nominations to drive the 2 new working groups	<b>All</b>	<b>Next meeting</b>
		Consider the option of creating a club to lead in TrailO events.	<b>IP/GU</b>	<b>Next meeting</b>

## Website and Newsletter Report

David Jukes

### Website:

- Following the decision at the last meeting, Clive asked BOF to give me editing rights to the website. I asked for Clive to retain access as I felt that it is always sensible to have a reserve. I gained access in early February. An initial problem with loading files was resolved.
- I have given the site an initial 'make-over' to give it a fresher appeal. However it would be helpful to have some opinions on what I have done so far. Please take a look!
- In particular, I have updated the pages on the JK and BTOC and have uploaded some additional files of past results and maps. I would like to continue this but also wondered if there was scope for adding these from other UK TrailO events.
- I have stopped using the term 'mini site' (except in dealings with BOF) since, as a technical term, I feel it could be misleading to newcomers.

### Newsletter

- I was very grateful to the contributors to my first Newsletter which I was able to publish at the beginning of March. This was uploaded to the website in a new 'Newsletter' section (where you will also find the 2022 Review).
- As we don't have a TrailO membership list, I sent an email notification to about 35 people as well as posting a news item on the website and on Facebook. For the future, it would be great if BOF could create a listing of interested people by getting members to tick a box when they renew/join.
- BOF have asked if future issues could be available just before their monthly eNews. The next issue is planned for beginning of June but I will see if I can complete it in late May.
- The main featured events will be the JK events, the Falco Cup and BTOC in Northern Ireland. There should also be an item on the Team Selection with a look ahead to WTOC. Other contributions will be welcomed. I have plans for a 'Top Tips' section and have had some ideas from a few people – thanks to them.

### Facebook

- I have been copying my website news items and posting them on the British Trail Orienteering Facebook page.
- JK posted a FB item in February asking about the role of the site and who should be allowed access. The main problem is that it needs to serve two different functions.
  1. The original function was, I believe, for 'enthusiasts' to keep in contact with each other and it is still used for that purpose (e.g. information about whether there will be a Monday Zoom meeting). However, for that purpose, the site has a restricted membership – a 'Private Group' (although the membership is now 125).
  2. I feel that there also needs to be an open site to attract and enthuse new people (which is why I post the news items on the page). The current name of the group suggests that it serves this second function.

Do we need to consider having two Facebook sites? I believe IOF had a similar issue and now has two sites. Or are other methods such as WhatsApp now more appropriate for keeping the 'enthusiasts' linked (e.g. for the Zoom meetings and for planning foreign trips)?

- Although not a major issue, I would like to be able to post the impersonal news items anonymously (so they appear as 'British Trail Orienteering' rather than 'David Jukes') and would therefore like to be given access as an Admin.