

Trail Orienteering Steering Group Meeting

Virtual Meeting on Zoom, 6th January 2021

1 Present

Richard Keighley WIM, Iain Philips LEI, Tom Dobra BOK, John Kewley MDOC, Graham Urquhart OD, Liz Urquhart OD, Christine Roberts EBOR, Ian Ditchfield MV, Colin Duckworth TVOC, Clive Allen SN, Nick Barrable SYO, Charles Bromley Gardner BAOC, Anne Hickling ESOC, Wilbert Hollinger LVO, Scott Collier (British Orienteering)

2 Chairman's introduction and opening remarks

2-1 The group welcomed Scott Collier as our new British Orienteering Board liaison.

3 Conflicts of interest declaration

3-1 Steering Group members were reminded of the conflict of interest process and the need for individual registration with British Orienteering.

4 Apologies

4-1 None

5 Minutes of previous meeting (4th Nov 2020) and Matters arising

5-1 No matters arising. Noted that Anne Braggins name was misspelled in the previous minutes.

6 Review priority items for this meeting's agenda

6-1 In line with the move to more frequent meetings each with a narrower agenda it was agreed to follow the draft agenda.

7 Event update:

7-1 It is unlikely that any events will take place before or at Easter 2021

7-2 No event has been identified to be BTOC 2021, and until access and COvid-19 restrictions are clearer it is not possible to move forward with plans.

7-3 To provide events to make up Britol we need to stimulate club based activities, where interest can be generated at a local level. How can we get clubs engaged. Raise the profile of events. Promote TrailO guidelines to help novice low key planners. (Mentoring?) List of Torus competitors could be way in. **GU** will approach clubs based on Torus competitor lists to suggest they add small TrailO events alongside FootO when they finally restart events.

As a start, we might encourage a sample model control to create awareness at the club level as a way into both planning and competing as some clubs (HH) do already.

7-4 Create webinars in the current British Orienteering series to promote why TrailO, and how to do it for level D or C style events. The BO schedule is currently already planned for the near future, but SC suggested we should approach Peter Brook to see if this would be possible, and in what time frame. **All** to consider what kind of webinar to promote TrailO or to support the creation of low key events they could propose.

7-5 Promote these small events as an adjunct to a level C FootO within the Britol framework, as this reduces the investment in access when compared with a standalone event. These can be quite casual, but will still provide an understanding of the challenge and the value particularly in the move from TD4 to TD5 for foot orienteers. Use the webinars and Torus archive to assist in the quality of these small events.

7-6 WRE/ECTO calendar is now published on IOF eventor, though which events will actually take place remains uncertain so none of these are currently considered as candidates for the British Ranking list.

7-7 CR reported that EBOR hopes to hold an event in Yorkshire in November that will include a small TrailO competition.

7-8 AH reported that there will be no TrailO at the Scottish 6 days.

8 Selection policy

8-1 **GU** will circulate the draft Selection Policy for 2021 for review by the Steering Group. The selection policy reflects the lack of events to maintain the UK ranking list and so selectors will consider known form rather than specific events and the ranking list. It was agreed that athletes would be asked to express interest to the selectors to be considered for the ETOC and WTOC as currently planned, and any postponement of these events in 2021. In the event of postponement within 2021, athletes who had expressed an interest will be contacted directly for their potential availability of the new dates. Events in 2022 would be subject to the 2022 selection policy.

8-2 Team budgets for ETOC and WTOC. **GU** to approach Peter Hart to get any guidance on the level of support that British Orienteering may be able to offer competitors towards the costs of participating. Athletes may also have access at an individual level, and Sport England may provide some funding to support Juniors (c.f. JWOC funding)

8-3 For ETOC that team size will not exceed the 202 team. For WTOC the team may optionally include additional juniors where the selectors consider this advantageous.

8-4 It was agreed that LU will act as GBR Team Manager for ETOC and WTOC held in 2021. LU was willing to act.

8-5 If any juniors under 18 at the time of the competition are selected for either ETOC or WTOC it will be necessary for them to have an accompanying person (for example a relative) to take

responsibility for their safeguarding. The committee accepted that any under-18s who were selected would need to be accompanied by their parents for safeguarding reasons. **SC** took an action to check with GU whether there would be any possibility of using SportEngland junior talent funding to subsidise any juniors who were selected for the junior places at WTOC.

8-6 A reminder to athletes on the need for Anti-doping compliance will be in the Selection Policy.

9 Development and publicity

9-1 CA had prepared a grant application to the Orienteering Foundation to create a promotional video for Trail Orienteering and GU submitted this to the Foundation in December 2020. It is under consideration by the Foundation.

9-2 It was agreed that informal tender would be an appropriate mechanism to select someone to create the proposed video. This would be sent to known previous successful suppliers (e.g. Catherine Bett and Sarah Brownlee). Once funding is available, SC will place a British Orienteering news item inviting any other potential suppliers to express their interest.

9-3 CA will start planning content and a storyboard to be reviewed by this Steering Group. Initial thoughts are that participants and terrain in SE England will minimise travel and costs. **ID** will consider the possibility of Newlands Common as the terrain. In terms of participants, known physically challenged TrailO competitors will be approached to include a range of physical challenges. CD indicated a willingness to participate.

9-4 CA had regained control over the British Orienteering TrailO site, and had non-member links placed on the British Orienteering home page to facilitate access by non-members. There's also a link to the Minisite from 'Who is it for' on the BO Home page. There was a suggestion that TrailO may not convey the nature of the sport to newcomers, but no alternative or additional description could be agreed on. **All** to consider issue for a future meeting.

9-5 It was suggested that the British Orienteering Championship and Team pages should have the equivalent TrailO information added to underline the potential elite nature of the discipline.

10 IOF Update

10-1 JK provided an update on IOF activities in the form of a presentation which is circulated with these minutes. Key items were the ongoing review of formats, the appointment of a new TrailO commission and its membership, and very limited rule changes for 2021

10-2 Four GBR IOF Event Advisers have been renewed for 2021. Anne Braggins who has retired from this role after many years. **GU** to write to Anne to thank her for all her work in developing and supporting Trail orienteering, both in this role and many others, including many years storing the British TrailO equipment, now transferred to CBG.

10-3 Ca reported that the IOF are driving improvements in their publicity and wider marketing. They are also considering an IOF video targeting a broad audience. If the proposed GBR is funded, this may be able to build additional value from it. There is work ongoing to improve the IOF website in this area, perhaps with a new site.

11 . Agenda items deferred and date of next meeting

11-1 This meeting was planned for 2 hours and still overran. This is a challenge for Group members. Future evening meetings should be restricted based on urgency to be completed in 90 minutes. If necessary add meetings or special interest groups to ensure all items are covered and given adequate consideration.

11-2 **GU** to arrange the next meeting in a similar 90 minute time slot in about 2 to 3 months

12 Update on actions

12-1 LU reported that the new GBR team kit has now been delivered and will be used for future . **LU** will provide a picture of this for the Group. **GU** will write on behalf of the Group to thank David Coton for making this possible.

13 Any other business

13-1 CA suggested that if we are to achieve or objective to develop a strong offering to the physically challenged communities outside ex-foot orienteers we should make leadership of this a specific role on the Working Group to drive this. This was agreed in principle, and will be considered in detail at a later meeting. The key requirements are suitable events and willing volunteer(s) to develop and execute the strategy. A good approach would be to set up a sub-group of (say) 3 of our number who are interested in planning and progressing our policy on developing inclusivity and reaching out to the various communities that we think could benefit from trying TrailO. They could themselves decide on which of them co-ordinates the work and reports back. This should be on the next meeting agenda – so that we have a plan under way, once (hopefully) we have a video that can help with this objective.

14 Dates and venue and format of future meetings

14-1 Next meeting to be in March 2021 by Zoom. Wednesday evening is preferred.

15 Actions from previous meeting and action list

15-1 Actions relating to management of events are deferred until events start being planned.

Ref.	Item	Action	Who
Carried forward from July 2020			

2	5-3	GU to write to Major Events to understand what governance or escalation processes we could offer to assist them in monitoring the preparations for TrailO in future Major events and to keep TrailO in view.	GU – deferred until events are likely
7	8-5	IP to draft a set of UK rules for TrailO for review by the Steering Group	IP - deferred until events are likely
8	10-1	New Ranking List development to be co-ordinated by IP & JK.	IP/JK - deferred until events are likely
13	13-3	TD agreed to undertake a survey of results systems to recommend a way forward for UK events	TD - deferred until events are likely
16	15-2	RK and GU to discuss how to fund mapping of areas that are unsuitable for FootO	GU RK - deferred until events are likely
Actions Carried forward from November 2020			
2	8-2	CA to draft an application suitable for the Orienteering Foundation and to explore the possibility of IOF support	CA - closed
3	10-2	EU will send David Coton a top and jacket for his own use when the new international kit is delivered, and	EU
4	10-2	GU will write to David Coton when the new international kit is delivered to express the thanks of the Steering Group.	GU
5	11-2	CA is also continuing to work to improve the representation of Trail Orienteering at the BOF home page level	CA - closed
New Actions January 2021			
1	7-2	GU to target clubs with significant Torus interest as potentially able to run low key TrailO	GU
2	7-4	All to consider what kind of webinar to promote TrailO or to support the creation of low key events they could propose	All
3	8-1	GU will circulate a further revision of the proposed selection policy for.	GU
4	8-2	GU to approach Peter Hart to get any guidance on the level of support that British Orienteering may be able to offer competitors	GU
5	8-5	SC took an action to check with GU whether there would be any possibility of using SportEngland junior talent funding to subsidise any juniors who were selected for the junior places at WTOC.	SC GU

6	9-3	ID will consider the possibility of Newlands Common as the terrain for the promotional video	ID
7	10-2	GU to write to Anne to thank her for all her work in developing and supporting Trail orienteering, both in this role and many others	GU
8	12-1	LU will provide a picture of the new kit this for the Group.	LU
9	12-1	GU will write on behalf of the Group to thank David Coton for making this possible.	GU

v.2 GU 24/1/2021