

Trail Orienteering Steering Group Meeting

Virtual Meeting on Zoom, 4th July 2020

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) , Peter Hart British Orienteering

2 Apologies

2-1 None

3 Minutes of previous meeting and Matters arising

3-1 GU had attended Nathan Fernandes' (BOK) workshop in January 2020 on 'Making Urban Orienteering Inclusive' with the hope that courses will be planned for wheelchair users. An article summarising the seminar has since appeared in Compass Sport.

3-2 GU will circulate the output from the seminar to members. [Completed]

4 Conflicts of interest declaration

4-1 Members to review their Conflict of Interest declarations and update if necessary.

4-2 PH will circulate the current British Orienteering form to assist with this [completed]

5 2020 events and restarting

5-1 ETOC 2020 has been postponed and will be held in 2021. WTOC 2020 has been cancelled.

5-2 The cancellation of BTOC 2020 was unrelated to Covid-19 and there are no plans to re-use any courses in future. This is the first instance of a major event failing to deliver its TrailO component as planned. TrailO organisation is often behind the rest of the large event for practical reasons, as it may depend on decisions regarding timing and terrain to be made. To ensure that TrailO is embedded in the overall organisation it is important that the Controller (and preferably the Planner) are identified alongside their FootO equivalents. This is a challenge owing to the very small pool of experienced resources we draw on at present and will continue to be the case until we increase club level participation.

5-3 While the role of this steering group is advisory and the accountability for the successful operational delivery of events lies with Major Events, there may have been some lack of focus on the TrailO component of the event. 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. It is important

that the organisers of the previous and future TrailO events (JK/BTOC) are invited to the Major Events Conference.

- 5-4 At present it is not possible to formulate the processes to allow physical events to restart after Covid-19. Each jurisdiction has different rules that make it impossible to simply copy the approaches taken in countries that have already opened, and rules may differ across the various parts of the United Kingdom. British Orienteering expect to provide guidance for re-opening the sport across all disciplines soon. Special challenges for TrailO that are not shared by other disciplines will be the protocols for TempO and timed controls, and map hygiene, and the need to minimise the time competitors are at the event. For the present the Steering Group cannot plan event timings for 2020 or protocols and will meet again when the direction is clearer.
- 5-5 During lockdown virtual TrailO events have been organised internationally. UK participation has been high, introducing new competitors. While the quality of these events varied, most provided good training and in the case of the Torus Cup and its associated software these were of competitive quality. In the future similar events may have a role in training, introduction to TrailO and to provide an additional stream of competitions for example when terrain is inaccessible.

6 Orienteering Foundation

- 6-1 The Orienteering Foundation aims to "Deliver meaningful and effective support to the development and continuance of orienteering". As a result, the Steering group needs to consider what financial assistance it could seek that would deliver broader participation or improve the competitor experience in Trail Orienteering. Suggestions were seeking support to creating promotional materials such as videos to promote the sport, better event experiences such as the use of ANT and better access to post event information, including results, successes and analysis. All to consider proposing grant applications to enable or accelerate actions that will grow, promote or improve TrailO for consideration at a later Steering Group meeting.

7 Major events 2021 onwards

- 7-1 RK (TrailO coordinator JK2021) reported that the JK 2021 is currently undergoing change owing to access issues and will require the relocation of the FootO events to Penhale from Hayle Towans. It is hoped that the TrailO events will be able to remain at Hayle Towans. Current aim is for TempO on Saturday, PreO on Sunday and a small PreO on Monday. RK is asked to have a view on the suitability of the event as a TrailO WRE in September 2020 as we would need to decide at that time. This decision will need to consider the decisions relating to the FootO WRE, the availability of additional manpower at the JK, the impact of ongoing travel restrictions and the remoteness of the JK for travellers to the UK.
- 7-2 GU (TrailO coordinator JK2022) reported that the JK 2022 had not made much progress as we are in the early stages of development, but that engagement with the JK organising committee was in place and the organising team had experience from JK 2017.

7-3 Ideally, we would run a BTOC 2020 early in 2021 immediately followed by BTOC 2021 associated with the BOC. This would provide 3 major events by 6th April 2021 and an opportunity for all competitors to demonstrate their form after lockdown, subject to ongoing relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions. In view of the timing, areas with suitable maps already in place are preferred. No events are currently under way, but opportunities for these events include:

- BTOC 2021. A BTOC could be associated with the BOC 2021 planned for March 6th, 2021 at Hazelmere
- Thorncombe (RK)
- Twywell (SMOC) (IP)
- Irchester (LEI) (IP)
- Burton Dassett (OD) (GU)
- ID suggested that Longmore may also be suitable, but we would need to recognise that the land charge would be at least £5.50 pp. CBG also advised that active MOD establishments are likely to be very busy, particularly at weekends, as they catch up with training of reserves deferred during Covid-19 lockdown so access may be an issue.

7-4 Individuals identified above will assess the feasibility of mounting these events before April 2021. All to consider these (and other options). When the events are more certain, the Steering Group will identify those to be used as BTOC 2020 and BTOC 2021.

8 UK league and promoting smaller events

8-1 TD reported that the rules for the UK Trail Orienteering League are in a provisional final stage, but have not been approved. Also, changes may occur in light of discussions with Martin Ward. The name we agreed on is BritOL so please use that or British TrailO League.

8-2 Two League events had been run so far. Unfortunately, no further events are planned owing to Covid-19. In view of the loss of most 2020 events, TD to consider merging the 2020 League into 2021, if this aligns with the other UK leagues. Possibilities for 2021 league events are BTOC 2020, BTOC 2021, JK, Scottish 6 days, Tentsmuir and the White Rose. It is hoped that further locally organised events may also be included.

8-3 TD is working to agree and finalise the branding of this league in relation to leagues in other disciplines with Martin Ward. Contact has been difficult since Covid-19, and TD asked for support from British Orienteering to move this forward and enable more publicity to begin.

8-4 IP reported that the event categories document had been reviewed by the Steering Group. It is now agreed.

8-5 IP has started work on a set of UK TrailO rules to clarify the IOF rules (including the IOF guidelines which are now also rules), standardise events and make planning events easier.

IP will work with a small subgroup of the Steering Group to refine these UK rules and is seeking volunteers for this work.

9 IOF update and working group on the future of TrailO update

- 9-1 JK reported on the Task Groups set up by IOF to develop Trail Orienteering. JK had been working on engagement through Social Media and presented some of the Task groups recommendations. JK's presentation will be circulated to Steering Group members with the minutes. JKs presentation also listed the latest IOF rule changes specifically relating to team selection (See Item 11)
- 9-2 CA has been working on media engagements and how we could address Television, Video and live streaming of the competitions, and to create publicity, awareness and training media. The task group outputs should be considered by the IOF council in early July.
- 9-3 These task groups are likely to lead to concrete initiatives from the IOF, and the Steering Group will meet to discuss how to support and make use of these initiative to develop Trail Orienteering in the UK and consider linking this work to future Orienteering Foundation grant applications.

10 Ranking for 2021 and beyond, Budget, Selectors, Team Manager

- 10-1 IP/JK reported that the revised ranking approach and system is still ongoing. For the time being the current ranking system will continue to be used.

11 Selection

- 11-1 It is not yet possible to identify specific events to assist competitors in planning entries, as the current restrictions on travel internationally and the local Covid-19 restrictions prevent planning ahead. In view of the lack of UK and International events and opportunities to compete, the selections for 2021 international events will be based primarily on 'all known form'. GU will circulate a proposed selection policy for 2021 for agreement by the Steering Group to replace the current process.
- 11-2 Revised WTOC rules allow for additional team members, and specifically additional Juniors. We can expect ETOC to adopt these team rules or a variant of them later. As a result, we will have the option of selecting juniors in 2021. Junior participation would be subject to British Orienteering safeguarding rules, which may require us to accredit a parent or safeguarding official in addition to the usual team. The impact of this will depend on the age of the junior and will need to be considered during the selection process. All to consider how this might be achieved for WTOC 2021, as other orienteering disciplines successfully send junior team members abroad. Send ideas to GU for discussion at a future meeting or by email.

12 Developing TrailO

- 12-1 CA has been maintaining the TrailO mini site and is happy to continue to do so. The list of likely international events has been updated.
- 12-2 It has been difficult for non-orientees to discover TrailO (both virtual and real) and most new participants have been recruited personally. Formats, publicity and access to reach newcomers. The mini site and social media channels are very effective for existing competitors but are less so for newcomers. Indeed, it is not possible to find out about TrailO on the British Orienteering website unless you are already a member, and this makes access exclusive to orientees; there are no references to TrailO or any of the non-FootO disciplines in the GB team pages
- 12-3 The Steering Group needs to prepare a clear proposal to British Orienteering to build on the Mini site and the current British Orienteering web site structure, but to enable and promote access to information for non-orientees and to make better access for newcomers. We may consider supplementing this with outward facing Social Media, but would need a volunteer. All to consider ideas for the next Steering Group meeting.
- 12-4 All are encouraged to include reports of activity such as Torus Cup, and how to get engaged in club and regional newsletters.

13 Software developments

IP/JK/TD

- 13-1 TD's Tempo map creation software is now stable and has been successfully used in several events.
- 13-2 JK will ask Matt Pickering (UBOC) to provide a description of how he created the photos for the Torus Cup round he planned, as these were very realistic.
- 13-3 It was agreed that there were already mature systems available for results from around Europe. TD agreed to undertake a survey of these to recommend a way forward for UK events. This will include the results system being developed under an EU grant by Czech, Italy and others.

14 New national kit

- 14-1 EU reported that a shortlist of designs had been prepared and a supplier identified before Covid-19. There remains the formal approval of the design by British Orienteering, and the supplier to restart production, then the kit can be ordered as planned for use at the International Events from 2021 onwards. Stock kit will be purchased and maintained on a rolling basis, and athletes may purchase kit post competition and wear it less formally at events other than ETOC and WTOC to promote TrailO. It is proposed to buy tops and jackets in a range of sizes enough to provide competition wear for the team, plus jackets & tops for TM and APs. The design will be based on current GB Foot-O kit, with the probable replacement of the "running man" with a monochrome version of the IOF TrailO logo. Proposed wording for the backs of tops and jackets is "Great Britain" and "Great Britain Trail Orienteering" respectively. [completes Action 6 12/2019]

14-2 EU will obtain approval for the proposed design and then order the new kit.

15 Any other business

15-1 Anne Braggins has indicated that at some time in the future she will no longer be able to store the British Trail Orienteering equipment, as she has for many years. Ideally someone in a central location with the capacity of storage. CBG offered to take on the storage of the equipment when the need arises. It may also be possible for GU to store equipment. GU to discuss the details with CBG and Anne Braggins to finalise arrangements.

15-2 RK has identified a complex area with excellent contour details that would be suitable for high quality Trail orienteering. This area would not be available or safe for Foot Orienteering. A map would only be useful for Trail Orienteering events and is unlikely to be produced by a club. RK to discuss with GU how we could approach supporting the creation of maps in these circumstances.

16 Dates and venue and format of future meetings

16-1 It was agreed that the virtual format of the meeting was effective and enabled greater participation at lower cost. Future meetings will be set up in this way.

16-2 Virtual meetings have a much lower cost of attendance, so it was proposed that future meetings should be more frequent and shorter, each having a more focused agenda covering all the Steering Group responsibilities over time. It was agreed that a weekday evening time would now suit members more than a weekend daytime meeting, as the issue of travelling has been removed.

16-3 GU to arrange future meeting date(s) as virtual meetings and agree the agenda for each meeting in consultation with the Steering Group.

17 Actions from previous meetings

The actions from previous meetings were all completed, except for the new Ranking system [4] which is carried forward.

Ref.	Action	Who	Complete
1	Members review their Conflict of Interest declarations and update if necessary.	Group Members	Completed
2	Event Categories. IP to review& develop guidelines in conjunctions with the group members via email	IP/All	Completed
3	National League rules for 2020 to be developed by TD & reviewed by Group members	TD/All	Completed
4	New Ranking List development to be co-ordinated by IP & Group Old ranking list to be maintained in parallel for 2020	IP/JK	Ongoing

5	Selectors to be asked to consider pre-selection and an earlier selection date for WTOC	CA	Completed
6	New kit to be designed and produced before ETOC 2020. Orienteering Foundation to be approached for aid.	LU/GU	Completed
7	TrailO software developments to be monitored	TD	Completed
8	Clarification need over Board member for TrailO	RK, GU	Completed
9	New Chair and Group members need Board approval	RK, GU	Completed
10	Revised content on Ranking List & TrailO League needed for mini-site	JK, CA	Completed
11	Zero Tolerance – Guidelines to be developed by IP in collaboration via email with Group members	IP, All	Completed
12	Meeting(s) date(s) needed for 2020	GU	Completed

18 Action List, July 2020

Ref.	Item	Action	Who
1	4-1	Members review their Conflict of Interest declarations and update if necessary.	All
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
3	6-1	All to consider proposing grant applications to the Orienteering Foundation to enable or accelerate actions that will grow, promote or improve TrailO.	All
4	7-1	RK to have a view on the suitability of the event as a TrailO WRE in September 2020.	RK
5	7-4	All to consider options for major events in Q1 2021	All
6	8-3	TD to finalise branding and publicity for British TrailO League.	TD
7	8-5	IP to draft a set of UK rules for TrailO for review by the Steering Group	IP
8	10-1	New Ranking List development to be co-ordinated by IP & JK.	IP/JK
9	11-1	GU will circulate a proposed selection policy for 2021 for agreement by the Steering Group to replace the current process.	GU
10	11-2	All to consider how junior could be safely incorporated in the team for WTOC 2021. Send ideas to GU for discussion at a future meeting or by email.	All
11	12-3	All to consider ideas for a proposal to British Orienteering to build on the Mini site and the current British Orienteering web site structure to enable and promote access to information for non-orienteers.	All
12	13-2	JK will ask Matt Pickering (UBOC) to provide a description of how he created the photos for the Torus Cup	JK
13	13-3	TD agreed to undertake a survey of results systems to recommend a way forward for UK events	TD

14	14-2	EU will obtain approval for the proposed design and then order the new kit for use from 2021.	EU
15	15-1	Finalise arrangements to move equipment storage from Anne Braggins	CBG, GU
16	15-2	RK and GU to discuss how to fund mapping of areas that are unsuitable for FootO	GU RK
17	16-3	Agree future virtual meeting(s) date(s) for 2020	GU

v.2 GU 21/10/2020