

Trail Orienteering Steering Group Meeting

Virtual Meeting on Zoom, 4th November 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

2 Apologies

2-1 Wilbert Hollinger (LVO) , Peter Hart (British Orienteering)

3 Minutes of previous meeting and Matters arising

3-1 None

4 Review priority items for this meeting's agenda

4-1 In line with the move to more frequent meetings each with a narrower agenda it was agreed to follow the draft agenda:

- Review priorities for the agenda
- What we can do or plan to do in UK under current Covid restrictions. Are there any obstacles to organising or attending UK events
- Event update:
 - Easter 2021 – continue with plans for event in Cornwall, or move elsewhere?
 - BTOC 2020/2021
 - Other opportunities
- Consideration of selection policy for 2021, incl. Juniors, in light of current and likely future event programme. Timing of selection.
- Application for grant from Orienteering Foundation – purpose and timing
- IOF Developments – new TOC, reports from Working Groups
- Agenda for next meeting
- Update on other actions

4-2 Other standard agenda items will be taken under Other business and considered in detail at a later meeting:

- UK ranking and the impact of lack of events
- Status of BriTOL UK league and plans for 2021
- Major events beyond 2021
- Budget/ Team Manager 2021
- Software developments
- Training & Development
- Board update
- Website/Publicity

5 Restarting events

- 5-1 Current guidelines prevent all but virtual TrailO events from happening.
- 5-2 In preparation for restarting events we can prepare draft protocols for Covid-safe Tempo and PreO events, based on the government and British Orienteering guidance. This will need to be kept aligned with the guidance and can be based on the successful approaches already taken for foot orienteering (when this was permitted) and Trail Orienteering in other countries such as Denmark and the WRE in Italy in October 2020.
- 5-3 The protocols in use where TrailO is currently permitted (Denmark and Italy as examples) show that only minor modifications need to be considered to make events Covid-safe. These include:
- Time slots arranged to minimise waiting and queueing
 - Minimum assembly area
 - Use of own punch for Pre-O (DK) , or use of ANT (IT)
 - No results or answers at the event, and so restricted appeals or modified process (DK)
 - Time controls and Tempo speak answers, visible controls so no need to point them out, fixed maps progressively revealed (DK) or sanitising of competitors at each station (IT)
- 5-4 The precise arrangements will need to be developed in the light of the Government, British Orienteering and Club guidelines at the time of the event.
- 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 Event update

- 6-1 BTOC 2020 has been cancelled and there will be no deferred event. There will be no 2020 BTOC champion. It is hoped that a 2021 BTOC event can be organised. JK 2021 has been cancelled.
- 6-2 Guidelines change continually, but individual activities such as planning, mapping, training and organisation can continue in most areas.
- 6-3 Reviewing current Covid-19 restrictions on competitions and the lack of planned events, it seems unlikely that any events suitable for UK ranking or the British Trail Orienteering Championships 2021 will take place in the UK before Easter 2021, but this is an evolving situation, and any planned events will be considered by the Steering Group.
- 6-4 GU reported he was hoping to get Octavian Droobers to arrange a suitable event in the midlands as the map and the course outline are all in place, but that at present obtaining permissions from local authorities was not possible. Volunteers to control such an event

would be very helpful, as it may need to be set up in a short time frame and is likely not to be until March 2021 or later.

7 Selection policy for 2021

- 7-1 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 update the 2020 process. This will also set the selection timeline to allow relevant events that are able to take place to be considered and to reflect the late confirmation that the competitions will go ahead. This will be reviewed by email by the Steering Group and then published on the British Orienteering web site. The extent to which Virtual TrailIO form should be considered as an additional indicator of form will be left to the selectors and the selection criteria will include this provision.
- 7-2 We will have the option of selecting juniors in 2021 and the selection policy will make this clear. Junior participation would be subject to British Orienteering safeguarding rules.

8 Orienteering Foundation application

- 8-1 The Orienteering Foundation aims to "Deliver meaningful and effective support to the development and continuance of orienteering". CA proposed that an application be made to establish a video similar to those commissioned for UK Foot orienteering. As an indication of the possible cost, the recent Permanent Orienteering Course video cost of the order of £600. An Orienteering Foundation grant will be sought to cover the full cost of making a video suitable for UK purposes. CA to draft and submit an application to the Orienteering Foundation.
- 8-2 IOF support would be 'secondary' to this application and would be used to upgrade/expand the video to serve international purposes (e.g. could include film of an elite competition such as ETOC or WTOC in 2021). CA to explore the possibility of IOF support.
- 8-3 The Steering Group should consider the production of a 'publicity pack' that would include photos, instruction and information which will be considered at a later meeting.

9 IOF Developments – new TOC, reports from Working Groups

- 9-1 JK reported on progress and circulated slides [Attached].
- 9-2 Plans for international events are emerging, but these remain subject to disruption, postponement and cancellation. IOF eventor is the authoritative source for these. JK circulated a slide showing the current position [Attached].

- 9-3 JK also provided the summary reports from the IOF TrailO Working Groups which have reported since our last meeting, and Vision, Strategy and TOC restructure report [both Attached]

10 New national kit

- 10-1 EU reported that the designs for the new international kit have been approved by British Orienteering, and the order was now with the supplier, though delivery may be delayed by Covid-19. It is expected that the kit will be used for all International Events from 2021 onwards.
- 10-2 The Steering Group recognised the substantial contribution made by David Coton to enable the purchase of the new international kit. David will be provided with a top and jacket for his own use when the kit is delivered, and GU will write at that time to express the thanks of the Steering Group.

11 Update on other actions

- 11-1 **Minisite** - CA reported that the British Orienteering TrailO Minisite could not currently be updated and so is not up to date.
- 11-2 **Publicity** - CA is also continuing to work to improve the representation of Trail Orienteering at the BOF home page level, as currently it is hard to navigate to for non-orienteers and is only referenced in the “members only” sections .
- 11-3 **Britol** – TD reported that consideration of the branding by British Orienteering has been delayed and it is still being considered. In view of the lack of events during lockdown, it was agreed that events from the 2020 Britol would be merged into 2021 as a single series.

12Any other business

- 12-1 Thanks CBG for taking over equipment storage from Ann Braggins (action 15-1 from July 20)
- 12-2 GU had been approached for magazine grade photos of Trail Orienteering to support an article in Motability magazine. GU to investigate Steve Rush as a source of these, and NB offered also to provide these as Compassport also have a good archive.

13 Dates and venue and format of future meetings

- 13-1 GU to continue arrange future meeting date(s) as virtual meetings and agree the agenda for each meeting in consultation with the Steering Group.
- 13-2 Next meeting to be in January 2021 by Zoom. Wednesday evening is preferred.

14 Actions from previous meeting and action list

The shortened agenda meant that not all actions were reviewed on this occasion. The actions from the July 2020 meeting were completed, except for the items 2, 7,8, 10, 11, 13 and 16 which were carried forward.

| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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-orientees. | All |
| 13 | 13-3 | TD agreed to undertake a survey of results systems to recommend a way forward for UK events | TD |
| 16 | 15-2 | RK and GU to discuss how to fund mapping of areas that are unsuitable for FootO | GU RK |
| Actions from this meeting | | | |
| 1 | 7-1 | GU will circulate a proposed selection policy for 2021 for agreement by the Steering Group to update the 2020 process. | GU |
| 2 | 8-2 | CA to draft an application suitable for the Orienteering Foundation and to explore the possibility of IOF support | CA |
| 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 |
| 6 | 13-1 | GU to continue arrange future meeting date(s) as virtual meetings | GU |