

Chair's Report – Dec 2018

Club and Association Conference

Liz Yeadon and I attended the conference on behalf of SCOA. Copies of the slides presented by Peter Hart are on the SCOA dropbox. Anyone who can't access them and wants a copy can contact me. The conference covered two main topics. First Peter gave a presentation of his review of British Orienteering activities and explained the strategic planning for the next 3 years. The afternoon was given over to discussions about the Talent and Performance program going into the future.

Although Peter has not been in place for long he seems to have a good grasp of the current state of BO and the issues that we have to face in the short and medium term. The main issue affecting BO, and other sports, will be the loss of Sport England funding in 2021. He thought that BO was in quite a good state financially having already made cuts that would make the future sustainable. A big problem, as he saw it, was that the Orienteering major events and competition structure is not sustainable in its current form with too many competitions occurring which was putting a huge strain on the fixtures list and the volunteers. In the short term he believes that there should be a review of the major events and competition structure and also an attempt to simplify the rules.

The Talent and Performance program is going to be the main casualty when Sport England funding ceases. The rest of the day involved discussions on first as to whether, or not, some form of program was actually necessary and then if it was agreed that it was, how would it be funded. The feeling of the meeting was that for the long term future of the sport we need to continue to support the juniors and international athletes and that there should be a pathway for the juniors. We should offer support for our existing and potential international athletes in providing financial and, if possible, coaching assistance to help with the program of events and training camps.

The discussion on funding recognised that although it might be possible to obtain small amounts from sponsorship and other external sources that the main sustainable funding would be through either, or both, of an increase in membership fees or an increase in events levies. This would need to be communicated clearly to the membership.

Major Events Conference

With SCOA hosting the JK next year there was large representation of SCOA people at the MEC held at Swindon on November 10th. Peter Hart was meant to present to the group but illness meant that Chris Phillips, the chair of the Events and Competitions Steering group, gave his presentation. The main topic was again, the current set of major events and competitions fixtures which both he and Peter thought was unsustainable. The increase in the number of these in the recent years means that is becoming increasingly difficult to find dates in the Orienteering calendar to hold them all.

Another problem is the current 4 levels of fixtures with an issue being in some parts of the country that Level B events are being put on with less than 200 attendees. Also some clubs are registering events as Level B which don't meet the criteria. He believes that we have to revisit the current fixtures structure and event scheduling.

The rest of the day was given over first, to presentations by the coordinators of this years JK and British Middle and Sprint Champs who each had interesting problems to overcome. This years JK had to overcome late forestry work which nearly meant a change of venue, problems with environmental constraints which meant significant late changes to the courses and the

weather over the weekend. Issues on the day included start clock failures and a problem with the start becoming out of sync at the Sprints.

The second part of the day split the delegates into groups which in our case meant that next years JK people could have a round table with those from this year.

MOD Access Charges.

Peter has sent me the latest correspondence with the DIO which I forwarded to the club reps. There doesn't appear to be any satisfactory progress.

BSOC 2019

Alan Kersley and I went out to look at Greenham and have agreed that it would be possible to hold the event there. We are currently in discussions with Natural England.

Eric Harper