

SCOA Bulletin – December 2018

1, JK 2019

This is rapidly approaching. All the major officials are in place and the entries are now open. This event requires a lot of manpower to put on. If you are able to help please let your club coordinator know

2) BO – Association and Club Conference

This was held on Saturday October 20th in Birmingham. It was a very interesting day. The conference covered two main topics. First Peter Hart, the new CEO of BO, 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.

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.

3) 2019 Coaching Conference

Another reminder for this event which is taking place on the weekend of the 12/13 January. Details of this and an agenda can be found at

https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/index.php?pg=news_archive&item=4393

It looks to be an interesting event with some excellent speakers and very relevant topics which I am sure will be of interest to the current coaches, and anyone who wants to become a coach, in the region.

4) SCOA League

We have now held 3 events this season with 2 more in the near future – the SN event at Wellington College on Sunday 29th December and on Jan 13th SOC are holding an event at Burley.