

Events Report to LEI Committee

August 2020

This is probably the strangest report that I have prepared in my 16 years as Event Co-ordinator!

The Past

As everybody will be aware since the lockdown, we have been unable to hold any competitive orienteering events. However, we have been able to maintain interest by using the POC's for the Up and Out Programme and Maprun. The Up and Out Programme had just about been completed (we were running out of POC's) when it was curtailed by the Leicester local lockdown.

Both these activities have required a great deal of effort, and a steep learning curve, by various members of the committee and thanks should go to Roger E, Roger P, Simon Starkey and Ursula.

The Present

A seven event Summer League is due to start on Tuesday 4th August. The current BOF guidelines on organising events does mean that they will be very different from what we have become accustomed to. Pre-entry only, limited Si timing, no socialising, social distancing, sanitising etc will be the norm.

Given that the BOF Guidelines are long and comprehensive the first few events will be very much a trial to see what is possible and it may be that we can "upgrade" to nearer normality.

Part of the Guidelines is a Code of Conduct that is mandatory for all competitors. Non-compliance should be regarded as bringing the sport into disrepute.

The Immediate Future

Assuming that the Summer League goes according to plan it would seem to be possible to organise a Winter League of some sort.

It should also be possible to organise a Club Championship.

Level B & C events will, under the current guidelines, present greater challenges that would be very difficult to solve. e.g. current limits on numbers present at the event. There would seem to be no prospect of the current guidelines and the restrictions they present being eased in the near future.

There is also an issue with permissions. I am aware that some landowners are currently refusing permissions for events. Other landowners are being very slow to respond.

Even a limited programme may well not be possible if Covid-19 infections increase in the autumn and the government introduces further restrictions on leisure activities.

The Longer Term

Even if the rest of 2020 is a bit of a wash out, we need to assume that Orienteering will resume, in the future, in a way that reflects what we have been used to. The general expectancy is that the sport will have a near normal programme sometime in early 2021.

On that basis I have sent a draft Level C Programme to the Regional Fixtures Secretary for her approval. As always, we are now doing a little bit of horse trading with the other clubs in the region over dates.

We are tasked to host the Regional Compass Sport Cup Heat in March 2021. As committee members will know we are currently short of areas for the larger events. One possibility, after some creative thinking is using a combination of Old Dry Hills and Ferymn Country Park.

Our hosting of the YBT Final at Irchester has, a result of changes in the wake of the pandemic, been put back to 2022.

JK2024 is still on track and we will be hosting the Friday Sprints.

Chris Phillips

Events Co-ordinator

1.8.20