

Informal Discussions held before the NGOC AGM 2014
13th October 2014

Change to NGOC Fixtures – Pat MacLeod

There were several reasons for making the change to a 12-month programme of varying events:

- We are slipping behind the times in terms of event types, with urban and park events becoming common.
- We were already organising events all year round, with a very artificial beginning and end of the league season, which has even overlapped with the summer series.
- We have been looking for a format attractive to newcomers, but have not yet found one.

Over the 12-month period (January-December), there will be 12 league events, 3 WNL events, 6 training events, 6 summer evening events and around 3 extra (novelty) events.

Training events will focus on specific techniques and will include exercises to develop these techniques. There may also be a Short Green course, for anyone who just wants a normal run. There will also be some coaching days aimed at specific groups of people.

In addition to the change to the programme, we are also extending the event window in response to people asking for it to be longer. This will allow parents of young children to both have a run and also allows for people who can't make it at certain times. Registration and starts will be open between 11:30 and 13:30.

To allow for these changes, we will need:

- Organisers/planners
- Publicity
- New areas

The Events and Competitions Committee and Planning for the Future – Chris James

Chris updated us on what the E&CC are currently doing. They are split into two groups – Operational and Strategic.

The Operational group has developed a strategy and they work with the Events Delivery Plan. This involves approving venues (both terrain and organisers/coordinators), supporting the Major Events Manager and appointing top officials, planners, controllers and organisers.

The main concern for the Strategic group is sustainability. It is a struggle to find available and qualified officials for 2014-2016 major events, let alone 2017 onwards. Members expect all the major events to happen, so officials are needed to make them happen. The age profile obtained from results of major events indicates that there are far fewer young people than old, suggesting that many of the young people will need to get qualified in order to keep enough officials available in future.

Chris highlighted how regions and clubs can be involved in ensuring the future of our sport:

- Succession planning – for example: having a Volunteer Developer or Development Officer; integrating newcomers so that they get properly involved with the club early on; providing introductions to organising and planning so that people see that it's not onerous and are encouraged to give it a go.
- Running training programmes
- Updating training packages
- Mentoring – inviting an assistant to help with an event allows them to see what's required without any burdens of responsibility; this shares the load and also builds up a stock of planners, organisers and controllers for the future.