

MLS/Mtg/2015

12 Jun 15

See Distr

MINUTES OF THE MILITARY LEAGUE UK SOUTH (MLS) ORIENTEERING MEETING HELD AT PERHAM DOWN ON WED 22 MAY 15

Present	Lt Col A Oates Maj A Johnson WO1 S Greening	Army HQ HQ FTC	MLS Chairman Results Sec MLS Sec
In attendance	Lt Col R Lyon Maj R Barrett Capt R Ashton SSgt C Holcombe Lt Col (Retd) Colin Metcalfe Mr Andy McGregor Mr Richard Baldwin Mrs Roberta Baldwin	AAC Centre 25 Regt RLC RMAS HQ Sp Comd BAOC BADO SN SN	
Apologies	Maj (Retd) A Farrington	EMIT UK	AOA Tech Advisor

Item	Action
Item 1 – MLS Chairman’s Introduction	
1. The MLS Chairman thanked everyone for attending and stated his aims for the meeting and the future of the MLS League.	
Item 2 – Minutes of last meeting	
2. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.	
Item 3 – Matters arising from last meeting	
3. There was one outstanding matter from the previous meeting, the Start Clock (Item 3 – para 3b) which is still ongoing, but close to resolution. The MLS Sec had submitted 3 separate bids for grants (from G7 Sp Comd Sports Equipment Grant, ASCB and UK South Welfare Fund), all of which were refused. However, at the recent AOA Committee Meeting, the AOA agreed to fund a replacement.	MLS Sec
Item 4 – Financial statement	
4. The MLS Sec provided the financial statement, including a breakdown of Income & Expenditure (previous year, current year to date and estimated):	
a. Liquidity State. The Liquidity Statement showed that the fund had a Net Working Capital of £4,717.30p as at 8 May 15, down from £5,351.41p the previous year (monies mostly spent on re-mapping).	
b. Mapping refresh. The Mapping Officer has £300 (of the £3K previously granted) still available for mapping.	Mapping Officer
The chairman pointed out that the MLS was not a profit making organisation and, in principle, should not build up an excessive working capital. The last 12 months showed a slight drop in available funds, but this was not sufficiently great as to demand any change to the operating model at this stage.	

<p>Item 5 – Equipment</p> <p>5. The MLS Sec briefed on the following:</p> <p>a. MLS equipment. A list of available MLS orienteering equipment is included in the MLS Rules.</p> <p>b. Replacement equipment. 30 replacement Kites had been purchased by the MLS Funds and used throughout the season. Additionally the remaining 50% of the MLS EMIT Control Units and a new Start Clock, funded by the AOA, would be available in time for the new League season.</p> <p>c. Future equipment purchases. The MLS Sec is to scope out/cost replacement Start/Finish Banners (possibly mesh/feather type) as the current ones are worn. Additionally, subject to the repair issue with one of the MLS Tents, possibly look at replacing or even adding another tent to the equipment pool, although the latter is not critical.</p>	<p>MLS Sec</p> <p>MLS Sec</p>
<p>Item 6 – Event organisation</p> <p>6. The MLS Chairman spoke about event organisation, particularly emphasising governance and risk assessment.</p> <p>a. Risk Assessment/EASP. There is a mandated requirement to produce an EASP for all MLS events and display it at the event registration. An example of an EASP is available on the BAOC web. BO, as our national governing body, has agreed that a military EASP will suffice in lieu of the BO Risk Assessment form.</p> <p>b. Dangerous features. Planners/Controllers must clearly identify any unusual risks as part of the planning process. Busy road crossings and water features are obvious examples, with additional factors (such as spiral staircases) being relevant in urban events. Having identified risks, they must also ensure that these are clearly briefed to competitors. A concise ‘point brief’ at Registration and in the Start box is advised.</p> <p>c. Governance – Senior Responsible Officer. It was reiterated that all MLS events must have a serving military Senior Responsible Officer who must satisfy themselves that the event is properly organised, and safe. This requires active engagement by the SRO, rather than passive acceptance of a plan.</p> <p>d. Results Systems. Although EMIT is the preferred system for MLS registration and results, other systems can be used. However, any organiser intending to use an alternative system is to notify the MLS Results Sec <u>in advance</u> to ensure that results data is correctly formatted.</p> <p>e. Event promotion/flyer. A full event flyer should be posted on the BAOC web a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the event. It is recommended that a draft flyer is uploaded earlier, and that a number of small A5 flyers are left at MLS Registration in the weeks preceding an event, to publicise it.</p> <p>f. Embargoed area. Sidbury Hill is embargoed from Dec 15 until mid Feb 16 (post Team Harris Championships).</p>	<p>All event organisers</p> <p>All event organisers</p> <p>All event organisers</p> <p>All event organisers</p> <p>All</p>

<p>g. Use of Sport Ident/EMIT Touch Free. Whilst it was accepted that systems other than the standard EMIT could be used, it was suggested that those individuals who owned a current EMIT card should not be charged a hire fee for the alternative system. Subject to consultation with the principal users of alternative systems (RAFO and R Signals) this will be incorporated into the MLS rules for the next season.</p>	<p>MLS Sec</p>
<p>Item 7 – League 2014/2015</p> <p>7. On behalf of all those that have taken part in the MLS League 2014/15, the MLS Sec thanked all organisers and organising units/clubs for their efforts. Over 7.7K individual runs were completed (an increase of 2.2K from the previous season), which is very encouraging. 1,395 competitors were registered on the League and there was an average of 228 runners per event. The MLS Chairman also informed the meeting that a quick statistical analysis showed that circa 700 had completed only one event, but circa 400 had completed 4 or more events.</p>	
<p>Item 8 – League 2015/2016</p> <p>8. The MLS Chairman spoke on his vision for the forthcoming season and emphasised that event officials must follow BO planning guidelines if the league is to continue to progress.</p> <p>a. Rules – amendments. The MLS Rules would remain extant, with only minor tweaks made to make some items clearer. It is planned to have these new rules available on the BAOC web in late Jun 15.</p> <p>b. Fees/Levies: MLS Recommended Entry Fee (REF). There would be no changes to the MLS REF. However, the MLS Rules for 2015/2016 would show a clearer breakdown to aid transparency.</p> <p>c. Map numbers. There had been a number of occasions on which maps had run out and recirculation had been required. Whilst this will inevitably happen on occasion, the REF should enable a quantity of surplus maps to be produced without prejudicing the financial viability of an event. The Chairman reiterated that the MLS is not a profit making organisation and that fees should enable an event to break even, and no more. In the event that maps do run out, it is the organiser’s responsibility to arrange any recycling.</p> <p>d. Free Runners. Further to Item 4h of the previous minutes, the MLS Sec stated that the practice of refunding the event organisers the full entry fee (less EMIT Card hire) for <u>civilian helpers</u>, capped at a maximum of 6 helpers per event, would continue. This refund would be clearly shown on the event MLS Invoice produced by the MLS Sec, reflected in the new MLS Rules and would cost the MLS £30 per event.</p> <p>e. Novice (Long Orange) courses. Event planners/controllers are to ensure that Long Orange courses comply with BO guidelines for technical difficulty. This is to ensure that novices do not find themselves utterly defeated. We must view the Orange course as an opportunity for novices to be successful, thus wishing to return for more.</p> <p>f. Coaching at events. Organisers are encouraged to provide coaching</p>	<p>MLS Sec</p> <p>MLS Sec</p> <p>All event organisers</p> <p>Event planners/controllers</p>

<p>support at events. Units wishing to take advantage of such an offer should be asked to register their intent with the organiser in advance.</p> <p>g. Amalgamations for Sport (UK South) – Unit Status. Units were reminded that their Major/Minor Unit status for sports is as directed by G7 PD HQ Sp Comd who manages the list on behalf of the ASCB. Teams <u>are to</u> run iaw the Amalgamations for Sport (UK South) list.</p> <p>h. Events forecast. The MLS Sec asked if there were any offers to organise an event, with a few replies forthcoming (the BAOOC web has been updated accordingly). Prospective organisers should check the BAOOC web for free dates and then contact the MLS Sec with their proposed date and venue.</p> <p>i. Team Captains. Teams wishing to bring <u>in excess of 10 personnel</u> are requested to contact the Organiser in advance, to ensure that enough maps are available at the event and therefore prevent re-circulation of used maps. In addition the MLS Event Flyer Template would be updated accordingly. The development of on-line pre-registration systems would be monitored, although the principal of unrestricted EOD must remain paramount.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All units</p> <p>All</p> <p>All units/ MLS Sec</p>
<p>Item 9 – Summer Series 2015</p> <p>9. The MLS Sec stated that the aim during the Summer Series is to continue momentum, for events to be of training value to both planners and competitors, for courses to be innovative and above all to be fun. Default timings for the Summer Series will be the same as for the winter league.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Item 10 – Individual Championships 2015/2016</p> <p>10. The MLS Sec spoke on the following:</p> <p>a. Format. The format for the MLS Individual Championships would remain unchanged from the previous season. The MLS Sec is responsible for issuing the event instruction/statement of requirements to the organiser.</p> <p>b. Details. It is initially planned that the event would be held on Wed 20 Apr 16; with a suitable area TBC, and an organiser/organising unit, planner and controller required.</p>	<p>MLS Sec</p> <p>All</p>
<p>Item 11 – Team Championships 2015/2016</p> <p>11. The format for the MLS Team Championships would remain unchanged from the previous season. The MLS Sec would be responsible for issuing the event instruction/statement of requirements to the organiser:</p> <p>a. MLS Team Harris. Although the Harris format no longer forms part of the Army championships it continues to attract interest within MLS and will be run again. It is planned to hold the event on Wed 24 Feb 16 on Sidbury Hill, with SARUM O providing the Planner and Controller. An organising unit is required; volunteers to the MLS Sec.</p> <p>b. MLS Team Relays. It is initially planned that the event would be held on Wed 16 Mar 16; with a suitable area TBC, and an organiser/organising unit, planner and controller required (volunteers to the MLS Sec).</p>	<p>MLS Sec</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p>

<p>Item 12 – Prize Giving 2015/2016</p> <p>12. The MLS Sec spoke on the following:</p> <p>a. Prizes/trophies. The medals for the MLS Individual and Team Championships (1st and 2nd places only) are supplied by HQ Sp Comd. The MLS League prizes are paid from MLS funds and for 2014/2015 are printed mugs and Ultrasport vouchers. Ideas for 2015/2016 were discussed and the MLS Sec would investigate various options and costs in due course.</p> <p>b. Format. The format would remain the same, with the MLS meeting and Prize Giving ceremony preceding a 60-minute Score event. The event the week prior to the Prize Giving would be an MLS Trg Event, thereby giving a two-week window to allow Team Captains and participants a short period to resolve any issues and the MLS Results Sec time to square away the results.</p> <p>c. Date. It is planned to hold this event on Wed 25 May 16, area TBC. An organiser and organising unit/club, planner and controller are required; volunteers' names to the MLS Sec.</p>	<p>MLS Sec</p> <p>All</p>
<p>Item 13 – Any other business</p> <p>13. The following matters were discussed:</p> <p>a. Mapping refresh. The MLS Sec asked if an additional £1,500 could be made available to the Mapping Officer for the purpose of map refresh during the year. This was agreed, on the proviso that we ensure value for money and do not re-map areas of which we cannot ensure usage. There are a number of potential mappers available in the local area, a variety of whom should be used.</p> <p>b. Walkie-talkies. Capt Rob Ashton asked if we could scope out a set of rechargeable walkie-talkies for use by the Registration/Organisers at MLS events. Capt Ashton agreed to investigate options, for up to £200, and report back to the Sec with recommendations. Technical assistance will be provided by SSgt Colin Holcombe.</p> <p>c. Prize giving free run. Capt Rob Ashton asked if next year's Prize Giving could be put on as a 'Free Run' for all competitors, with the possibility of an additional 'burger voucher' to entice more to the ceremony. The principal of an event subsidy from MLS funds was agreed, with the MLS Sec to work out detailed options.</p> <p>d. Brown course scoring. Maj Andy Johnson (MLS Results Sec) asked if there was a reason why those under the target time on the Brown course could receive higher than the 100 points (see para 23a(5) or the current rules), whereas those on the lower courses did not have an equivalent opportunity. Following discussion it was agreed that the Brown course needed to retain this system in order to ensure that the very best runners were appropriately rewarded for their achievements. However, replicating that model on the other courses might discourage some runners from progressing onto more challenging courses. Those aspiring to maximise their score should have a clear incentive to progress towards the Brown course. The consensus was</p>	<p>Capt Rob Ashton</p> <p>MLS Sec</p>

<p>that the rules should remain extant.</p> <p>e. League scoring. Maj Richard Barrett asked whether the total number of league scoring events could be reduced to 8, to enable more individuals and teams to achieve the necessary number and thereby enhance competition within the league. In addition, Maj Andy Johnson (MLS Results Sec) requested that the MLS Rules (para 23e of the current rules) be slightly reworded for clarity. The consensus was that “the best 50% rounded up +1 of the total events declared as an MLS League Scoring Event” should remain, with the aim of having a minimum of 20 events (making best 11 scoring) as the target. The wording of the rules would be amended to make this clear.</p> <p>f. Lists of available mapped areas/controllers/planners. Lt Col Rupert Lyon asked if it was possible to put a list of available mapped areas, with POCs, as well as known controllers/planners, up on the BAOC website. He also noted difficulties in gaining access to master copies of maps. The Chairman said that he would approach the Mapping Officer and AOA Technical Advisor to see what could be achieved without breaking Data Protection laws etc. <u>Afternote.</u> Any map that has been produced on behalf of the AOA or MLS should be available through the AOA mapping officer. Any further difficulties in getting access to such maps should be reported to the Chairman as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>g. MLS Results Sec. On behalf of all those running in the league, the MLS Chairman thanked the outgoing MLS Results Sec, Maj Andy Johnson, for all his hard work and diligence during his tenure. Furthermore, he thanked and congratulated WO1 Cie Dunville (AAC Centre) on his appointment as his replacement.</p> <p>h. MLS League Secretary. WO1 Stu Greening stated that, as he only has 2 years left in the Army, he is on the lookout for a replacement League Secretary to take over at the end of the 2015/2016 League season.</p> <p>i. Chairman’s closing remarks. The MLS Chairman stated that he again intended to write to all commanding officers within the MLS area, highlighting the benefits of orienteering as a low cost, high value, land navigation training medium. He highlighted the mutual benefits of the MLS to both the MOD and to civilian clubs, and encouraged organisers to co-operate and co-ordinate their activities with those civilian clubs wherever possible.</p>	<p>MLS Sec</p> <p>MLS Chairman</p>
<p>Item 14 – Arrangements for next meeting</p> <p>14. The next meeting would be held on Wed 25 May 16 prior to the 2015/2016 Prize Giving ceremony and event. Details, agenda and timings TBC nearer the time.</p>	<p>MLS Sec</p>

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All attendees

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AOA Tech Advisor

Mapping Officer

SMI Sport, G7 PD, HQ Sp Comd (for dissemination to all units in the UK South)