

SOUTH WESTERN ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION
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Minutes of the Committee meeting held at 7.30pm on 29th
June 2011 at Ilchester Town Hall.

Those present

Officers: Arthur Vince, KERNO (Secretary); Trevor Bridle, WIM (Treasurer & Membership Sec.); John Shucksmith, WIM (Fixtures Sec.).

Committee Members: Katy Dyer, BOK; Erik Peckett, DEVON; Christine Vince, KERNO.

Club Representatives: DEVON, John Dyson and Alan Simpson; NGOC, Pat Macleod; QO, Richard Sansbury; WSX, Richard Arman.

Visitors: Caroline Gay, British Orienteering Participation Manager for the SW; Henry Morgan, British Orienteering Director with responsibility for liaison with SWOA.

1 Appointment of Chairman for the meeting

Agreed that John Dyson should chair the meeting.

2 Apologies for absence

Peter Brett, Committee; Helen Kelsey, BOK rep; Susan Hateley, DEVON (SINS Editor).

3 Introductions

Caroline Gay and Henry Morgan introduced themselves to those present and vice versa..

4 Approval of Minutes for 6th April 2011

These were approved as correct.

5 Matters arising from those minutes

5.1 From Item 4.2, status of NAC:

A briefing sheet on the history of this issue had been circulated by the Secretary before the meeting.

The British Orienteering Board of Directors had decided at its May meeting that NAC should be accepted as a BOF affiliated club; the minutes give no details of the discussion. Henry Morgan said that he had gone to the meeting with no background information. SWOA, being self-governing, did not have to accept NAC as an affiliated club.

The Secretary had received from John Burrows a letter dated 25th June, with a copy of the NAC constitution. [Copies distributed to the meeting.] The following information was now available:

NAC has 7 members: John is the only BOF member, the rest being club-only members.

The NAC constitution requires a club chairman, secretary and membership secretary. John holds all of these positions.

The NAC constitution requires that it shall have no material or financial assets.

John stated in his letter that: "NAC has not indicated any interest in organising an event, having no maps, venues, the necessary manpower or qualified event officials." He had declined an invitation to attend the meeting to explain the position of NAC.

The committee concluded that SWOA should not accept NAC as an affiliated club for these reasons:

a) John holds all the officer posts in the club. This is against the spirit, if not the actual letter, of the mandatory requirements of BOF for a club.

b) The prime purpose of an orienteering club is to further the sport in its area. NAC does not appear to have this in mind as it has no interest in organising events; its constitution states only that it is for those with an interest in orienteering.

c) As NAC has – as required in its constitution – no financial assets, it cannot as a club pay affiliation fees to SWOA (or BOF).

The Secretary to write to John informing him of this decision, and also to inform BOF.

Pat Macleod, as chairman of NGOC, said that John would be welcome to rejoin that club.

5.2 From Item 14.5, Minimum age for completing risk assessments (RA).

The Secretary had spoken to Helen Errington who had said that this was 16 for competing the RA and 18 for signing it off. Henry Morgan confirmed this. However Secretary to get this confirmed in writing; and also for how long RAs and lists of participants need to be kept.

6 Correspondence

6.1 Notice received of the British Orienteering Association and Club Conference on 15th October in Sheffield. SWOA is entitled to send two representatives.

6.2 Electronic version of SINS:

Trevor Bridle had had correspondence with Martin Cross of WIM about notification of the arrival of the electronic copy of SINS. The present system is for the Secretary to email club secretaries to tell them that it is on the website. The Secretary did not think a group email to all the members interested was practical. The SWOA website now had an RSS feed, which would enable those who subscribed to it to be made aware of additions and changes to the site. Notice of this to be put in SINS.

7 Finance and Membership

The SWOA and SWJS accounts from 1.8.2010 to 29.6.2011 are attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes. Grants given this financial year are listed after the SWJS accounts.

7.1 SWOA Finances:

Membership fee and levy income nearly up to budget. Cost of SINS reducing due to its availability as an electronic copy; the budget for 2011/2012 can be cut from £2500 to £1500. Cost of grants for competitions and training £1034.16 so far. Caroline Gay said that money from County Sport Partnerships may be available for coach education. The excess of expenditure over income at the end of the financial year (31st July) is expected to be in the order of £1000, with a balance of about £6000.

7.2 SW Junior Squad finances:

The balance stood at £1034.15. £786 had just been paid for the Junior Inter-Regional Champs. in the NW. The squad has not needed the budgeted money from SWOA this financial year. £421.24 was still owed by various people for training activities; Jeff Butt, the Squad manager, to deal with this.

7.3 Emily Benham of SARUM had requested a grant towards the cost of the entry fees for the MTBO World Championship, which totalled £280. BOF no longer provided financial support. She was finding the travel and accommodation costs from a family loan. Emily no longer automatically qualified for a 50% grant being over 21 and no longer a student, but after discussion a grant of £140 was agreed.

[Post meeting note: Emily is currently ranked 18th in the women's' MTBO world ranking list.]

7.4 There was a brief discussion on the SWOA membership fees (for 2013) to be decided at the AGM. An increase may be in order to deal with the excess of expenditure over income.

8 Fixtures

8.1 John Shucksmith had given the chair of BOF Fixtures Group his views on the proposed review of the BOF Committee/Group structure. He considered the existence of regional representatives in the group essential.

8.2 John was waiting for confirmation from DEVON and KERNON that the SW Middle and Sprint distance Championships would be included in the Tamar Quadruple event in 2012.

8.3 BOK had offered to stage the British Champs. Classic and Relay events in 2017.

8.4 The Fixtures database now has an input from Fixtures Group, which should make it easier to use.

9 Controllers

Nothing to report.

10 Proposed Change to Constitution

The Secretary proposed that the name of the association in its constitution should be changed from "South

Western OA" to "South West OA". British Orienteering uses *South West OA* so this change would give consistency. No objections; however the change would have to be approved at the AGM

11 Succession Planning

Chairman: no candidate positively identified. Another year without a chairman would not be a good thing.

Secretary: willing to continue for 2011-2012.

Fixtures Secretary: considering retiring having done the job since 1995.

Treasurer: intends to retire after 14 years in the job due to the pressure of other commitments. This is a critical post, far more so than that of chairman. The club treasurers have been approached without success. Secretary to advertise in SINS.

12 Galoppen: proposed change to scoring

Dave and Jan Holmes, the scorers, had proposed the following change (previously circulated to clubs): that competitors who had not scored in 3 or more events would have their event results taken out of the reckoning and the event scores recalculated to produce the final league result. This change would mean that those who ran a course below their usual one and did a very fast time, or an elite competitor using the event for training, would not unduly lower the scores of the other competitors. This should give a fairer score to regulars on a course. Several views in favour of this change had been received by the Secretary. There is already a requirement to complete 3 events on a course of the same colour in order to win a prize. Agreed nem con that this change would operate for the next Galoppen season.

[The rules on the SWOA website will need to be updated.]

Handicap scoring: Gavin Clegg, WSX, had suggested to the Secretary that a parallel handicap scoring system – as was used immediately before the current method was adopted – be scored and have trophies. [Bill Vigar of QO is doing this and providing results to those interested.] No enthusiasm was expressed for this suggestion. Gavin also thought that updated Galoppen league tables should be on the SWOA website the Monday evening immediately after an event at the latest. The Secretary had told Gavin that this was unrealistic.

13 SWOA Representative on BOF Map Group

The function of the rep. is to provide a two-way link between the Group and club mappers. Two offers had been received by the Secretary, from Michael Reynolds of NWO and Bill Brown of WSX. The Secretary had spoken to both, and thought that the better offer was from Bill; Michael was happy that Bill took the job.

Agreed that Bill be appointed. Secretary to inform Bill and the chairman of Map Group.

Noted that although Erik Peckett is a Group member, he belongs as a specialist and not as a SWOA rep.

British Orienteering Development Plan

At this point in the meeting Caroline Gay spoke about BOF's plans for community orienteering in the SW; a new plan was imminent and will be sent to clubs. [Post meeting note: sent out on 30th June.] Caroline outlined the reasons for the plan, which aims to bridge the gap between schools' activities and CATI events and getting people into the sport. Her Community O Map illustrates activities and objectives. [Sent out with these minutes.] She answered questions from those present in some detail, and will be contacting SW clubs. There is a tentative list of areas to be targeted. Caroline can be contacted at CGay@britishorienteering.org.uk.

14 SWOA and the BOF Governance Review

Henry Morgan observed that the second document on the subject from BOF – *Review of the Committee Structure* – was much better than the first – *Governance Review*. (Including Events Committee and Associated Groups). The later document should be read to get a clearer idea of what the review is about. Henry said that the message had been received that regional association input is important on some committees and groups, such as Coaching Committee and Fixtures Group.

Concern had been expressed within SWOA about the length of time that two-way consultation with clubs and associations took; a much faster system was needed. Christine Vince commented that if the Board chose to ignore suggestions made at the Association and Club Conference, then the AGM could prove entertaining.

The appointment processes for Committee and Group members remained unclear. It was thought likely that many of the same people would appear, as they were the ones interested.

Feedback on the review is welcome via feedback@britishorienteering.org.uk.

[Post meeting note: The timetable given in *Review of the Committee Structure* had already slipped at the time of writing these minutes.]

15 Junior Squad report

No report received.

16 SWOA Development Plan

The SWOA Development Plan has been in abeyance whilst BOF has made new appointments to the Development Staff. Caroline Gay's presentation largely covered the current SWOA clubs' activities regarding Community-O and clubnights, and good progress is being made. BOF will be issuing a BOF Regional Development Plan shortly, and we can move on from there. [Post meeting note: the BOF plan has now been received.]

Scott Collier's report from the BOF Development Committee is attached in Appendix 2.

17 Coaching Report

Christine Vince's report from the BOF Coaching Committee is attached in Appendix 2.

18 AOB and Matters raised by Club Representatives

None. No time left to raise these.

19 Next Meeting

To be on 5th or 12th October (between the AGM and the Association and Club Conference on 15th October), depending on room availability. Date to be confirmed..

These minutes are subject to formal approval at the next SWOA Committee meeting.

APPENDICES TO MINUTES

- 1 SWOA and SWJS accounts 1.8.2009 to 29.6.2011.
 - 2 Reports from BOF Coaching and Development Committees.
- Community O Map by Caroline Gay