

Fixtures Secretary's Report

This has been my first year as the SWOA Fixtures Secretary, so I'd like to thank everyone for electing me last year and for supporting me in my new role. I took over from John Shucksmith who did the role for many years, and I'd also like to thank him for leaving matters in good order, and giving me lots of assistance during the handover.

As fixtures secretary my main role is to liaise with club fixtures secretaries to develop an orderly programme of events across the region. Priority is given to the larger events and the Galoppen series. I sometimes get involved when events clash, although I'm pleased to say that as a result of early discussions this rarely happens. I collate bids for regional competitions and also pass on bids for major events onto the national event scheduling committee whose meetings I attend.

Over the past year there were 185 events throughout the South West region, roughly the same number as in each of the previous two years. But there were also 275 activities - a 50% increase over the previous year, with many clubs now providing a weekly activity. During our main season there are approximately 4 events and 6 activities per week somewhere in our region, so I would hope that all SWOA members feel they plenty of opportunities to participate in the sport.

Looking back at our regional competitions, Devon OC have generously provided the lot - the Caddihoe Chase and South West Championships took place at Burrator and our CompassSport qualifying round was at Haytor. Devon OC also organised the Tamar Triple together with KERNO which provided the South West Sprint Championships at Exeter University and Middle Distance Championships at Smallhanger Waste.

SWOA members can be proud that this region has often provided more than its share of major national events. SARUM hosted the British Night Championships at Hamptworth back in February and will provide the Yvette Baker Trophy Final this December. KERNO will be hosting the Southern Championships at Penhale in April. BOK are organising the CompassSport Cup final in a year's time, and BOK are also due to host the British Long Distance Championships and British Relay Championships in 2015.

Richard Sansbury

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