

SWOA AGM 2012 Appendix 1 to Minutes

Chairman's Report

One of the principal roles of any regional association is to smooth the lines of communication between Clubs, who form the backbone of the sport, and the BOF Office (including the Board and National Committees), in both directions. This has been shown to good effect in the last year.

At last October's National Conference in Sheffield, 60 delegates from all over the UK expressed a clear preference for a lower national subscription, with extra income to be raised from levies on participation: "pay as you play". A revised structure reflecting this preference was proposed by BOF and duly approved at their AGM in April. Your committee has considered the effects of this new policy on its own finances, and also on its member clubs, some of whom expressed concern over the disappearance of family membership. As a result it is proposed that SWOA membership fees be abolished, and all the necessary funds for an effective and efficient regional association be raised solely from a levy on all participants. I commend this new structure to all members, and I hope that the necessary changes to our Constitution and charges will be approved.

I wish to express my appreciation on behalf of all members, for the work carried out by several key officials. There is no SWOA Office, and only five meetings of your committee each year. But that doesn't reflect the amount of time spent on the phone or, more likely nowadays, at the keyboard, in carrying out the necessary actions, reports and communications – all on a voluntary basis. On your behalf, I should like to thank them for smoothing the way for all clubs in the region to put on events and to assist active orienteers, especially juniors, to enjoy their favourite sport.

Trevor Bridle has been our treasurer for an extended period, and has decided to take a well-deserved retirement. During the last year in particular he has had a greater workload, analysing the consequences of the changes in charging structures already mentioned. He has also looked ahead to ensure that the changes proposed will cover our necessary costs for the foreseeable future.

Members will have noted a proposal to award Honorary Life Memberships to Trevor and to John Shucksmith, both of Wimborne OC, for their sustained and diligent support for SWOA. I'm pleased to report that Richard Sansbury has taken up John's role as Fixtures Secretary most effectively.

Arthur and Christine Vince, both of KERNO, continue to provide valuable advice in many areas, while keeping the administration of SWOA on a sure footing – not always an easy matter when the committee begins to ramble!

Jeff Butt of SARUM continues to move the Junior Squad forward. The recent 4th place in the Junior Regional championship was an excellent outcome, considering the region's relative club strength compared to other regions.

Susan Hateley of Devon OC has completed the transition of the SINS magazine to a digital format, with significant cost savings, but we anticipate a continuing presence for the magazine for some time yet.

I have been pleased to act as your Chairman, and will be happy to continue for one more year if members wish.

John Dyson, Devon OC.