

SOUTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

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Minutes of the Committee meeting held at 7.30pm on 7th
December 2011 at Ilchester Town Hall.

Those present

Officers: John Dyson, DEVON (Chairman); Richard Sansbury, Fixtures Secretary; Arthur Vince, KERNO (Secretary).

Committee Members: Peter Brett, DEVON; Katy Dyer, BOK; Erik Peckett, DEVON; Christine Vince, KERNO.
Club Representatives: NGOC, Pat Macleod; WSX, Richard Arman.

Visitor: Henry Morgan, British Orienteering Director with responsibility for liaison with SWOA.

1 Apologies for absence

Trevor Bridle, Treasurer; Jeff Butt, Committee; Susan Hateley, SINS Editor.

2 Approval of Minutes for 6th October 2011

These were approved as correct.

3 Matters arising from those minutes

3.1 From Item 3, re Risk Assessments:

Although it was now clear for how long risk assessments and lists of participants should be kept, the situation for other club documents – e.g. accounts – is not. Secretary to write to BOF Office to ask about best practice.

3.2 From Item 7.4, re SW Sprint Championships:

The Secretary had asked clubs for their view on the format, and an article had been published in the November SINS. He had received some opinions; the format would be on the agenda of the next meeting.

4 Correspondence

None.

5 Finance and Membership

The SWOA and SW Junior Squad accounts from 01.08.2011 to 7.12.2011 are attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

5.1 SWOA Finances:

The funds stand at £5052.80.

Erik Peckett asked about “Assoc.” Membership. The Secretary had previously asked BOF Office about this and received this reply:

Associate membership is a historic grade previously only used by Scout groups, Outdoor centres etc... The associate member receives Focus magazine. The key problem with associate membership is that it does not entitle people within that associate, individual membership (e.g. all scouts are not automatically members if their Scout group is an associate member). It is largely for groups who wish to 'stay in contact' with British Orienteering. Associate members are aligned to

a club on our database only and in no other practical way.

5.2 SW Junior Squad finances:

Funds in hand are £1662.68.

5.3 Grants given for training and courses are detailed in the accounts.

5.4 Christine Vince wanted to attend the BOF Coaching Conference at Lilleshall in February, so as to better fit her for her job as the SWOA representative on the BOF Coaching Committee. She asked that SWOA paid all her expenses – the conference fee of about £150, plus travel mileage. She could not afford to go otherwise. The Treasurer was aware of this request and would go with the decision of the meeting. After discussion, Katy Dyer proposed, seconded by Erik Peckett, that a 100% grant be given. This was agreed nem. con.

6 Fixtures

Richard Sansbury had attended the BOF Fixtures Group meeting on 15th October. His report on SWOA fixtures is attached as Appendix 2. Items discussed:

6.1 2013 Events

Item 1a: BOK had made a bid for the SW Sprint Champs. in 2013, to be staged at Bristol University, with an urban race in the harbourside area the next day; no date had been fixed. The bid was accepted.

Item 1b: SARUM would be running the SW Middle Champs. on 20th March, provided that the area (not yet known) was suitable.

Item 1c: WSX wanted to combine their February 2013 Galloper with a Compass Sport Cup round. This was not thought a good idea and was referred back to the club. (This combination had proved unpopular in the past as competitors for the Cup did not necessarily run their usual Galloper course, and the practice was stopped.)

6.2 Galloppers:

Item 2: SARUM want to run two Galloppers in 2013/2014. This would add to fixture congestion. Richard to ask the reason for this.

6.3 BOK events upgrades:

Item 3: BOK wanted to upgrade about 6 events a year from Level D to Level C, to attract people and give experience to Grade C controllers. The events were Avon Schools League events which had courses up to Blue. Richard had agreed, but not for the case when there was a Galloper event the same day.

6.4 Summer Relays:

Item 4: BOK had asked about the event level for these. Even if they were registered at D, the Committee preferred that they had a qualified controller.

6.5 Level B events downgraded:

Item 5: Two events registered at Level B had been downgraded to C at the organising club's request. (The National Fixtures Group did not like this.) One was the Sarum Saunter on February 26th 2012 – the club did not want to operate a timed start. The other was the WSX Dorset Delight on 12th February 2012.

7 Controllers

No requests for appointment had been received. Arthur Vince was engaged in a review of Grade C controllers. As well as emailing all 54 individual Grade Cs, he had also contacted clubs to find out if they could identify candidates for Grades C and B, so that the necessary courses could be set up. He would report on the results at the next meeting.

8 Report from the BOF Association and Club Conference on 15th October

John Dyson had attended. He reported that two issues had struck him. Firstly that the new Events and Competitions Committee would be very much an executive committee with groups reporting to it (who would not have one representative for each regional association). He described it as a “horses for courses” situation.

Secondly, there was a strong view in favour of increasing levy income rather than getting it from membership fees. Presently those who competed only at small local events did not contribute to the levy income. Proposals would be worked out for the next BOF AGM. Henry Morgan commented that there was a possibility of membership fees reducing, and different levels of event paying different levies (e.g. Levels A & B could be split from Levels C & D).

9 BOF Events and Competitions Committee: SWOA Nominees

This committee, to which Mike Forrest of BOK has been appointed chairman, replaces the former Events Committee in the new Committee and Group structure. Four places are available for those nominated by regional associations – who can nominate more than one person. The closing date for nominations is 8th January 2012. The Committee's terms of reference and the skills and experience required of its members can be found on the BOF website in a News item posted on 1st December. None of those present wanted to be nominated. The Secretary thought that Roger Hargreaves of KERNO might be interested. The Chairman asked those present to find out if anyone suitable in their club were interested.

10 SW Junior Squad Report

None received. Noted that the Squad would be having a training weekend at Soudley in the Forest of Dean on 10/11th December.

11 Report from BOF Rules Group meeting on 29th October

Arthur Vince had attended the meeting. He reported that many minor revisions had been made to the Rules and Guidelines. These were due to be published on the BOF website. The meeting minutes which give details of the changes had been published. As always, it is necessary for event officials to look at the latest documents covering their event and not to rely on a possibly out-of date paper copy. Some points of interest were:

The start time allocation for Compass Sport Cup events has been revised.

There is a new Guideline J on Night orienteering.

The course tables for Area Championships and in Guidelines B and C for Long and Middle Distance events have been revised.

There can be a problem with some SI cards not recording at controls in spite of the box beeping and flashing. This could be due to the card or to a mismatch between the card and the box. SportIdent were aware of this problem; advice on it will be published.

The Group was stood down at the Events Committee meeting on 12th November. (Henry Morgan commented that this might not actually be the case and that another meeting might take place.)

12 SWOA Development Plan

12.1 Universities and Higher Education Colleges:

Erik Peckett's plan for promoting and developing orienteering in SW universities had been circulated to clubs. He said that UBOC would be combining with other outdoor sports groups so as to obtain university funding. The input of Caroline Gay (BOF Participation Manager for SWOA) at Bath and Bristol was noted.

12.2 Other Development Issues:

Scott Collier's report on the recent BOF Development is attached as Appendix 4. He notes the demise of the Senior Competitions Group. His report also includes Caroline Gay's report on Community-O in the SW. Pat Macleod commented that Caroline was like a breath of fresh air on the scene.

13 Coaching Report

Christine Vince took the meeting through her report from the recent BOF Coaching Committee meeting, which is attached as Appendix 4. This covers current coaching issues. She commented that the next SWOA meeting needs to consider the grant aid for those attending future UKCC Level 2 and 3 courses. There will only be four Level 2 courses a year, which will probably mean significant travelling and accommodation costs. Only the most senior coaches will normally attend

Level 3 courses, but the potential cost should be considered.

14 AOB and Matters raised by Club Representatives

14.1 Erik Peckett asked if a Technical Conference was being planned. There are no plans at present.

14.2 Henry Morgan reminded the meeting of the 2012 Silva Award, for someone who has made a significant contribution to orienteering through "field" activities. Nominations close on 6th January and can be made by all members. More details are on the BOF website in a News item dated 3rd November.

14.3 Peter Brett said that the interim report on the future of forestry was due to be published on the DEFRA website. He invited comments, as he represents BOF on the Forest Access Group, which will be considering the report.

14.4 Erik Peckett proposed that Trevor Bridle and John Shucksmith of WIM be made made honorary members of SWOA, for long service given as Treasurer and Fixtures Secretary respectively. The meeting agreed unanimously. However the Constitution requires that this status would have to be given at the next AGM.

14.5 John Dyson reported that a signed agreement for the use of Braunton Burrows for the Tamar Jubilee weekend next year was due to be signed the next Monday; this should give a template for future events on the area. The negotiations for this were in marked contrast to those for using Smallhanger Waste – for which permission was given in 24 hours (this area is due to become the dumping ground for waste from a large wolfram mine in the future).

15 Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th February at Ilchester Town Hall.

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

APPENDICES TO MINUTES

- 1 SWOA and SWJS accounts 01.08.2011 to 7.12.2011.
- 2 Fixtures Report.
- 3 Report on BOF Development Committee meeting.
- 4 Report on BOF Coaching Committee meeting.