

# Minutes of SWOA Committee meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March, Taunton

## Present

Christine Vince KERNO (chairman), Helen Kelsey BOK (secretary), Katy Dyer BOK (cttee), Dick Keighley WIM (cttee), Erik Peckett DEVON (cttee), Richard Sansbury QO (Fixtures Secretary), Arthur Vince KERNO, Matthew Owen BOK; visitors - Nathan Fernandes, Peter Hart BOF CEO.

### 1. Apologies

Nicholas Maxwell DEVON (cttee), Mark Lockett KERNO (treasurer), Pete Maliphant BOK SWJOS, Rob Parkinson DEVON, Julie Astin WSX.

### 2. Minutes of meeting 27<sup>th</sup> November

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be an accurate record.

### 3. Matters arising from minutes

Proposed meeting between Dick Keighley, WIM, Peter Hart and Natural England regarding access issues: members of WIM have met with Natural England Access Officer (by chance) and excessive charges have been discussed, lack of understanding of what orienteering involves has been clarified and hopefully problems will be resolved at meeting with NT in near future. PH suggested that whilst BOF will do all it can to help with access issues, dealing with them locally will usually secure the best outcome.

### 4. Finance

4.1 Treasurer and Membership secretary's report. *See Appendix 1.*

4.2 Grants. Grant requests are circulated to committee by email for approval, but treasurer is only person who has overall view of grants. CV suggested that committee members need to have an ongoing list.

**Action: CV to ask ML to circulate an ongoing list of grants approved this year to all committee members.**

Following some confusion regarding a grant request from SARUM, HK asked whether grant request form could be available on website, rather than requiring treasurer to email link out individually. NF said that this shouldn't be a problem, although there have been issues trying to do this in the past. **Action: HK to ask ML if we can try this again and then liaise with NF to implement.**

MO commented (as a parent of juniors who have been beneficiaries) that support for juniors in terms of grants from both club and association is very generous.

4.3 Expenses. None not dealt with elsewhere.

4.4 Review of budget. There have been many requests for grants for juniors in the last few months which the committee is keen to support, but this has meant considerably overspending in relation to proposed budget. RS proposed that we revise the budget. HK pointed out that in recent years, when there has been a World Schools Championship, we have gone over budget. HK proposed that in future World Schools years there should be an extra item on budget for this separate from annual tour grants.

RS proposed, KD seconded that tour grant budget should be increased to £6000 this year, in the light of income from the British Sprints and middles. Agreed unanimously.

**Action: ML to increase the tour grant budget to £6000.**

### 5. Fixtures

5.1 Fixtures secretary's report. *See Appendix 2.*

MO reported the situation regarding the cancellation of Southern Championships weekend in Forest of Dean organised by BOK and NGOC for 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> March: Forestry Commission (FC) gave permission for event in April 2017, received risk assessment in November 2018 and all controls map in January 2019. On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 FC informed BOK that event could not go ahead because of nesting goshawks. Discussions with FC were unable to resolve issue so event was cancelled, leaving BOK with considerable financial loss. FC has indicated that no events will be allowed in March and April in the Forest of Dean in

future and that February, May and June were also likely to be subject to restrictions. FC has also indicated that permission will not be granted for any large (regional and above) events in the Forest of Dean over Bank Holidays. Southern Championships may possibly be rescheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> December as a Galoppen was already scheduled in the area for that date. It was not known whether NGOC would be able to provide a Saturday event on that weekend. PH will be taking up these issues with the Activity Manager but felt that discussions with local officials should also continue. RS noted that there are goshawks in the area to be used for the Compass Sport Cup round in Quantocks this coming weekend but changing affected control sites had been sufficient for event to continue. SWOA committee recognises the vast amount of work that has gone into the preparation of these events by all concerned, particularly officials involved in the National event. **Action: CV to write to officials in recognition of the work they have already completed and the disappointment of cancellation.**

EP suggested that all clubs that have had bans from areas or events curtailed because of unreasonable fees; Forest of Dean, New Forest, Dartmoor and MOD areas should put this in writing to BOF so that they are aware of the overall picture. PH stated that BOF is already in discussion with MOD about excessive fees for use of areas and a letter has been drafted to Minister for Sport. **Clubs to note.**

5.1 (6) Proposal for SWOA to host 2022 British Championships (Long and Relay) was discussed, particularly considering JK2021 also being SWOA. General feeling was that the region could host provided suitable areas could be found, which may impose restrictions on time of year. MO said that the clubs in the East of region (who are less involved in JK 2021) should be canvassed to see whether they could host, although all agreed that such a major event would be a joint SWOA enterprise. **Action: RS to contact fixtures secretaries in BOK, NGOC, SARUM, WSX, WIM, NWO and to report to Fixtures Committee that in principal SWOA is prepared to go ahead.**

5.1 (7) PH reported that there will be a competitions review and that BOF is to invest more in the coordination of major events and support of organisers, planning to fund 3 posts, 2 of which are already in place: Helen Errington and Andy Yeates. The review will be considering reducing the number of major events, possibly removing area championships and concentrating on National events.

Members of SARUM had asked for a review of National events as there was a feeling from some that SARUM Saunter should not have been a National event. **Action: CV to write to clubs to explain the importance to SWOA of National (Level B) events.**

5.1 (8) RS asked for suggestions to help make the fixtures process more visible. It was agreed that the fixtures bulletins should be available on the SWOA website as a starting point. **Action: RS to liaise with NF to put fixtures bulletin on website.**

It was noted that no conclusions had been reached last meeting concerning WIM suggestion that Caddihoe in 2020 should not be a chasing start, but should be a middle distance and sprint on Saturday, followed by a long distance on Sunday. After much discussion it was felt that if that was what WIM wanted to offer, SWOA should support it. Added advantage is this provides a venue for both the SW Middle and Long Championships. Proposed by KD seconded by AV, agreed by committee.

## 5.2 British Sprint and Middle Championships 2018. *For balance sheet see*

CV proposed that as the farmer at Stockhill had been extremely helpful and had charged no fees for the event, a donation should be made to her chosen charity (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute). Given the healthy profit made by the event, £1000 was proposed, seconded by RS, agreed by committee.

PH, on behalf of BOF, expressed sincere thanks to all those individuals involved in the preparation and execution of the two events and gave a particular mention of the organisation of the prizegiving. (Thanks to David Hunt BOK.)

5.3 JK 2021. Backup areas were suggested at last meeting. CV reported that there were no likely issues with any of the areas and finding backup areas was virtually impossible. Negotiations still underway to use Citadel in Plymouth, but event could feasibly go ahead without this if necessary.

5.4 Proposed changes to Galoppen League. *For responses from clubs see appendix 4.* Clubs generally wish to retain the current set up of one event per club; 9 events in total. One club particularly felt that the proposed change would disadvantage them as they are on the edge of the region. CV said that if a club stated that they would be disadvantaged (which is much stronger than simple disagreement) then the committee should consider carefully whether it should be proceeding with any proposal which elicited that reaction. The majority of the clubs wished to change the name to South West Orienteering League so this was agreed. Discussion was then about raising profile of the league. AV said that the presentation of prizes needed to be given higher status. RK suggested monetary prizes for juniors. Postcard sized advertisements to be distributed at appropriate events was discussed as a starting point. **Action: All to consider ways in which this league can be better promoted and better understood by those new to orienteering. Report to next meeting.**

5.5 Proposed changes to SW Sprint Championships. *For proposal see appendix 5.* The committee recognised the advantages of changing from the BOF 5-year age classes to urban age categories, both to increase competition and to enable event to be part of one of the urban leagues, thus attracting more competitors. There was some discussion about whether the name needed to contain the word "Urban", but it was agreed to leave in at present as a way of distinguishing from current set up. Proposal will be put to clubs and CV suggested composing a questionnaire for those attending this year's sprint championships at Exeter University and the wider SW orienteering community. PH said that BOF has a licence for SurveyMonkey, so if the questions are submitted to BOF they will set up the survey. **Action: CV to design questions in order to canvas general opinion.**

5.6 Rules for SW Sprint Championships 2019. Change of scoring so that results are the combined time for both races, was agreed by the committee before the meeting by email (because of the urgent need for organising club to progress with preparations). The reasoning is: if the Prologue is treated as a separate race (and the results used only to define the starting order of the Final), then there is no penalty if, for whatever reason, a competitor chooses to have an 'easy' Prologue race; this produces an inherent unfairness.

6. **SW Junior Squad.** *For report see appendix 6.* Subsequent change to report in view of cancellation of Southern Championships is that the final appearance of SWJS stall is likely to be at BOK Regional and Galoppen event at Wavering Down on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

## 7. Volunteers

7.1 Recent training courses. *For report see Appendix 7*

7.2 Training courses arranged: Level B organiser's course planned by Alan Simpson (DEVON). Currently there are 12 applicants: 7 from DEVON and 5 from QO; they could fit more in if required. Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup> 19.30 – 21.30 at Islington Village Hall. Alan is planning the course to be a case study of the Tamar Triple 2018, for which he was overall co-ordinator.

## 8. Controllers

Arthur Boyt, Grade B controller, has changed clubs from KERNO to DEVON. AV (Recorder of Controllers) did not think it was appropriate to invite all Grade B controllers to attend the Major Events Conference (this is a necessary step towards becoming Grade A controllers).

9. **Coaching** No report available on BOF coaching conference.

10. **Other SWOA business.** CV has emailed Georgia Jones of OROX to welcome to SWOA. **Action: HK to follow this up with further email and minutes of meeting.**

**Any other business.**

PH reported his appreciation of NWO for introduction to orienteering work with children in Swindon, following on from the Beat the Street initiative that ran in the town during September and October of last year.

PH reported that there would be electronic voting at this year's British Orienteering AGM and asked us to encourage members to vote using this system if they did not want to attend the AGM. **Action: HK to contact all club chairmen and secretaries and ask them to advertise this to their members.**

HK asked about the situation regarding BOF insurance and the fact that those who compete in events are not covered by this insurance after their third event. How are clubs supposed to police this? PH agreed that this was a very difficult issue and was looking into it as he had had many queries about this issue.

**11. Date of next meeting.** 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Corner House Hotel, Taunton, 7pm

## Appendices to minutes of SWOA meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### APPENDIX 1: Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report



**SWOA Accounts -  
4MAR19.pdf**

### APPENDIX 2: Fixtures Secretary's report



Fixtures secretaries  
report

### APPENDIX 3: Sprint and Middle Distance Championships balance sheet:



sprint and middle  
distance champions

### APPENDIX 4: Responses from clubs re proposed change to Galoppen league



Galoppen league  
change responses

### APPENDIX 5: Proposal to change SW Sprint Chamionships



Proposed change  
to SW Sprint champ

### APPENDIX 6: SWJS Report



SW Junior  
orienteering

### APPENDIX 7: Report on training courses



recent training  
courses