**Minutes of SWOA Committee meeting on 7th January 2020 in Taunton**

**Present**

Christine Vince KERNO (chairman), Helen Kelsey BOK (secretary), Steve Robertson QO (treasurer), Richard Sansbury QO (Fixtures Secretary), Dick Keighley WIM (cttee), Arthur Vince KERNO (cttee), Bryan Smith DEVON, Charles Daniel BOK, Julie Astin WSX.

1. **Apologies**

Pete Maliphant (cttee), Katy Dyer (cttee), Andy Reynolds (DEVON), Peter Hart (CEO BOF)

1. **Minutes of meeting 8th October**

With a minor amendment to Fixtures report, the minutes were agreed to be an accurate record.

1. **Matters arising from minutes, unless elsewhere on agenda**
   * + SWOA relay rules have been updated and were approved by the committee. **Action HK to put on website**
     + South West Sprint Championship rules have now been uploaded to website.
     + Training on SI Timing. CV has contacted John Simmons (BOK) to ask him if he is still willing to do this.

**Forest Enterprise Permissions Policy Document** (*Appendix 1a*):is there any Association action possible or should it be left to BOF.

Bryan Smith had sent an email to Peter Hart expressing concerns about the policy document and the lack of consultation between Forestry England and British Orienteering. (*Appendix 1b)*

SR reported that QO has a good relationship with FE, but that the blanket ban on events during the “red” months was non-negotiable.

This policy is having a massively detrimental effect on orienteering and we must do something about it.

CD explained the history of orienteering negotiations between Forestry England and BOK, showing that there has been a good relationship over 50+ years, stating that the number and size of events has not increased substantially during that time, noting that orienteering does not seem to have had a negative effect on the breeding of goshawks, which have gone from one to around 60 breeding pairs and that the club has always considered the ecological effects of the sport. Recently permission was withdrawn for night events, which seems to have been related to culling of wild boar. Permission has also been withdrawn for parking on forest tracks, which seems to be an insurance issue. The cancellation at very short notice of the Southern Championships last March was the first time that the club had been made aware of the “traffic light” system and blanket ban on all orienteering events, regardless of size, during four months of the year.

This is now of a different order and it appears that something has happened within FE, which has stopped a vast number of sporting events, but they have not said why. Without understanding the root issue, it is very difficult for us to negotiate.

Various actions were discussed, and it was agreed that this needs to be approached in two ways:

Nationally: British Orienteering needs to get involved and have some exploratory conversations with FE. **Action: CD to compose an email to Peter Hart to clarify the strength of feeling and the detrimental effect that this is having on our sport and the need for British Orienteering to get involved now.**

Locally: SWOA needs to make some representation to FE in order to understand the issues and therefore be able to suggest alternatives and help to erode the restrictions, where there is no reasonable justification for them. We must, however, maintain our good relationship with FE but, as personnel change very frequently, it is difficult for us to identify who we should be negotiating with. Peter Brett (who was a senior forestry officer with much engagement in the environment) may possibly be able to help us with appropriate contact names. **Action: BS to draft a letter to send round all SWOA clubs for comment, before sending to FE. Bryan will also contact Peter Brett.**

HK is attending the BOF Development Conference at the weekend. **Action: HK to make sure that everyone at the conference is aware of this permissions policy document.**

N.B. After the meeting Tom Mills (NGOC) emailed the background to NGOC relations with FE, which are currently better than they have been. *(See Appendix 1c)*

1. **Finance**

4.1 Treasurer and Membership secretary’s report.

SR presented membership data for SWOA clubs, noting that both BOK and QO had increased their member ship in last year. *See Appendices 2a and 2b*

SR presented SWOA accounts and summary for year 2019-20.  *See Appendices 3a and 3b*

BS questioned why SWOA needed a sizeable cash flow, CV responded that grant requests were unpredictable and also for major events cash flow (e.g. JK 2021).

To inform the committee’s discussion about grants, SR presented some historical data about levies and grants and SWOA income . *See Appendices 4a and 4b*

4.2 Grants

There have been very few grant requests so far this year (*see Appendix 5)* and the committee agreed to support Adam Potter with 50% of his costs for representation at World Cup 3, BOK with £100 towards costs of their planning course, SWJOS with £1000 towards their expenses for junior training throughout the year.

There had been much discussion about the grants given to school teams for the World Schools and Steve Perrelle from TBGS reported that there was a contribution of £1000 to the team from sources other than SWOA last year. It was also reported that the International School Sports Association had taken the decision to remove select teams from the World Schools Championships, so that only school teams will be allowed to compete in the future.

As a response to discussion at the previous meeting, all members had been asked to look at the document “What SWOA does” with particular reference to the grant situation. It was noted that various amendments to the document were required, specifically with reference to Galoppen, and reference to the SWOA facebook page which has only been used twice in over a year. Discussion about the grant levels was postponed to next meeting due to time constraints. It was agreed that HK and CV would look at the wording of the rest of the document and amend for consideration at the next meeting. **Action: HK and CV to amend document “What SWOA Does”**

1. **Fixtures**
   1. Fixtures secretary’s report

RS reported that all SW League events for 2020/21 season were now fixed, although they were nearly all during the period Oct–Feb because of the permissions policy from Forestry England, with one event (WSX) being held in April.

The Summer Relay Series for 2020 now had 5 events, all in June and July; these now need putting on the website. **Action: RS to contact the relay series coordinator to arrange uploading of this year’s events onto website and also updating of results for last summer’s series.**

There is still some doubt as to whether there will be a British Championship in 2021, in which case the JK would also serve as the British Championships.

SWOA has agreed to take on the British Championships 2022 on the early May Bank holiday and currently Mike Forrest (BOK) is negotiating with DEVON to run this as a joint enterprise at Braunton Burrows.

* + 1. Alternative ideas for running the chasing starts for Caddihoe Chase were postponed till next meeting (not needed for 2020).
    2. Volunteer to take responsibility for Caddihoe trophies – no volunteers yet.
    3. Approval of officials for Level B events by SWOA. Chris Phillips had responded that ‘yes, this was in the Rules’. This covers all 3 officials. SWOA had prepared a document in 2016/7 which needed updating; it was agreed that this information should be circulated to all clubs for future events. **Action: CV to edit and circulate to clubs.**

5.2 JK2021 Update *See Appendix 6*

**6.** **SW Junior Squad**

6.1 SWJOS Manager’s report *See Appendix 7*

6.2 New Forest Junior Camp 2019 *See Appendix 8.*  It was noted that the BOF financial contribution seemed to be quite high.

**7. Volunteers**

* 1. Recent training courses:

7.1.1 Controller’s course (DEVON). 5 people attended the course, 4 from DEVON 1 from KERNO. The course was led by Roger Hargreaves and supported by Rob Parkinson. AV noted that two applications for Grade C Controllers had resulted from this course so far.

7.1.2 Planners course BOK: There were 11 people who attended this course, 10 from BOK and 1 from QO. The course was very active with a group of people with very mixed experience who shared their expertise.

7.1.3 Two Event Safety Workshops have been organised by Dick Keighley for WIM.

7.2 Upcoming training courses:

Making Orienteering Inclusive 25th January: Nathan Fernandes is organising this course and currently has 3 people signed up for it. It was agreed that it should be advertised to all clubs. **Action: HK to email all club chairs and secretaries to advertise this course.**

All courses are advertised on the SWOA website and are open to all members of SWOA clubs.

1. **Recorder of Controllers’ report** *see Appendix 9.*

The committee approved the applications of Simon Freer and Tom McMurtrie as Level C Controllers and Nicholas Maxwell (currently a Level C Controller) to Level B.

Roger Craddock (QO) has not controlled a Level C event for some time and feels that he is unlikely to do so. Roger is very involved in the Junior Orienteering Group at QO and gives a tremendous amount of time to this and other aspects of the running of the club, so it was felt that being a Level C Controller (and the requirements) were not his priority. It was agreed that he should be removed from the Level C controllers list. **Action: AV to write to Roger notifying him of this decision and thanking him for all the work that he does to promote orienteering within QO.**

1. **Correspondence** None received.
2. **Acknowledgements.** Thanks to BOK and NGOC for hosting the Southern Championships in Forest of Dean 30th Nov/1st Dec.
3. **Other SWOA business.** Notes from the recent BOF Club and Members Forum; is there any action that the Association should be taking? – this item left to next meeting, due to time constraints.

Report from the Orienteering Foundation – attached to these minutes after Appendix 9.

1. **Any other business.**

DK reported that he was no longer chair of the TrailO Committee (now taken over by Graham Urquhart), but that he continues to be the SW representative.

1. **Date and venue of next meeting.** Wednesday 4th March 2020 at the Ruishton Inn.

**APPENDICES (Double click to open):**

**Appendix 1a: Forestry England, Permissions Policy, West England Forest District.**

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**Appendix 1b: Email from Bryan Smith (DEVON) to Peter Hart BO CEO**



**Appendix 1c: Summary of events leading to changes in the process of permissions and the working relationship between NGOC and F.E. today.**



**Appendix 2a: SWOA membership data Appendix 2b: change in membership, projected age profile**

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**Appendix 3a: SWOA accounts Appendix 3b: SWOA accounts status**

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**Appendix 4a: Levys and grants Appendix 4b: SWOA income**

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**Appendix 5: grant requests this year. Appendix 6: JK 2021 Update**

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**Appendix 7: SWJOS Manager’s report Appendix 8: New Forest junior camp report**

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**Appendix 9: Recorder of Controllers’ report Orienteering Foundation report**

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