SOUTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 23rd March 2021 (held online using zoom)

PRESENT:

Christine Vince KERNO (chairman); Helen Kelsey BOK (secretary); Steve Robertson QO (treasurer); Richard Sansbury QO (fixtures); Pete Maliphant BOK (cttee and SWJOS); Dick Keighley WIM (cttee); Arthur Vince KERNO (cttee); Julie Astin WSX (cttee); Carol Iddles BOK; Andy Reynolds DEVON; Liz Yeadon SARUM; Paul Taunton NGOC; Neil Fraser NWO; Alasdair Shaw QO; Kevin Pickering WIM; Jolyon Medlock WSX.

1. Apologies.

Roger Hargreaves KERNO

1. Chairman’s update.
   1. Succession planning – no prospective chairman as yet. AGM date agreed provisionally as Tuesday 5th October 2021 8pm.
2. Approval of minutes of last meeting.

Minutes approved with no amendments.

1. Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

Offer of support for organisers should be reinforced to clubs by club reps.

1. Treasurer and Membership Secretary’s report.

**Financial** – No transactions or grant applications since the last meeting.

**Membership** – compared to January/February there has been a surge in membership during March with an additional 60 membership units signing up. The region is now at 78% of the 2019/20 membership number.

* 1. Updating grant application process.

SR and HK have updated grant application form which will now be available on the website, along with a list of what grants have been approved for recently. It was agreed that where a grant request is straightforward (e.g. funding for a course open to all SWOA clubs) SR should approve without reference to rest of committee. Any other grant requests will be discussed either at a meeting or via email with rest of committee between meetings. There was some discussion about grant allocation for foreign tours etc and whether the grant should include travel costs as this could be the biggest expense. **Action HK add consideration of travel costs to next agenda.** PM agreed to inform SR about junior tours re the amount of the athlete contribution, once these are known.

1. Fixtures report.

BOF has recently published guidance about restarting orienteering. Events at all levels can start from 29th March, despite the government advice to minimise travel, the interpretation is that anytravel possible within a day is allowed, and for individual competitors to decide what is a reasonable travelling distance.

Yvette Baker: Regional heat was scheduled for Rushmore on 11th April, but government advice will still be to minimise travel, and this is before overnight stays are allowed, which might make it difficult for remotest clubs in the region. Therefore it has been agreed with Wessex that the Rushmore event cannot be the Yvette Baker heat.It was suggested and agreed that the regional heat should be incorporated in the BOKTrot on 16th May instead, despite the minimise travel requirement remaining, and that this results in BOK hosting both regional heat and final. Final scheduled for Westonbirt, but there are still some issues with this as the area now is more under control of Forestry England than it was previously, considerable felling means the map needs updating and the fees have been considerably increased.

Relay Series: 5 clubs have now agreed a date for a summer relay competition. **Action: RS to arrange to get the information on website updated.** James Crickmore is happy to continue with relay scoring.

* 1. Publicity for next SW Orienteering League: dates are now on the website, use of postcard advertising was discussed, possibly for early September. Many different views, some felt they were not effective, and require a big SWOA event to distribute. Other possibilities were using the data collected by BOF which includes 98% of SWOA member’s email addresses; placing an advert in CompassSport – although not everyone gets it. It was agreed that club reps should advertise the relay series in whatever way is most appropriate for their members, an email from SWOA to all (most) members about SW Orienteering League would make it stand out. **Action: HK to add to next agenda a decision about when to best send out email.**
  2. Approval of officials for National (Level B) events (*see appendix 1*). It was confirmed by Chris Phillips BOF, during the meeting, that the ruling is now that controllers for level B events should be from outside the region staging the event. This is an issue for events put on by some clubs, particularly KERNO and DEVON because of travel distances, so a waiver from BOF would need to be applied for. **Action: CV to apply for a waiver for Yvette Baker final, Caddihoe day 2, Salisbury City race and CompassSport cup heat.** All other officials on the list were approved by the committee.
  3. Permissions: Forestry England (*see appendix 2*). FE permissions policy seems to have totally ignored the exemptions allowed for outdoor sport and will mean that no permission for events with more than 30 people will be given before 1st September. Peter Hart’s response shows that BOF is now working with Sport England, and other sporting bodies to present a united front to FE. PM said that FE needs to be held to account, to explain how their restrictions equate with having thousands of spectators in a sports stadium, and exactly what they mean by “when it is safe” and “when our site capacity allows”, and why this differs from government guidelines, given that they are a government funded body.

Andy Reynolds has passed the email on to Brian Smith who was involved in negotiating with FE pre pandemic. FE are not accepting any new applications at present, but will do from 12th April. DK said that FE require a fee of £150 per event just to make an application. It was agreed that we need to respond to Peter Hart to encourage continued negotiation with FE. **Action: RS to draft a response for CV to pass to Peter Hart including information about how many of our events and activities this affects.**

National Trust seems to be more flexible in their approach, although it does vary according to area. DK said that the NT had agreed 150 competitors for an event at Stonebarrow and Golden Cap in the summer. Paul Taunton said that NGOC are focussing their events on NT areas at the moment.

1. Recorder of Controllers’ report.

Grade B: James Head, formerly a member of NWO, is not now a member of SWOA and has been removed from the published list of controllers in the region.

The list of controllers on the SWOA website has been updated and applies from 24th February 2021.

1. SWJOS report.

Nothing to report beyond continued zoom meetings. First actual training day coming up in April and it will be personal judgement about travelling. With all FE areas out of action, training possibilities severely limited. It is hoped that summer tours and selection races in May and June will happen, but no certainty at the moment.

1. SWOA website. “ What SWOA does” document agreed. (*see appendix 3*) - it was noted that the grants list does not include World Schools, but as the format of this event has changed it is no longer a major concern for the immediate future. Appointment of officials document still needs updating. **Action: CV to look through document “Appointment of officials for level A and level B” document before next meeting. HK to arrange What SWOA does to be updated on the website.**
2. Coaching: Safeguarding course (online) CV attending tomorrow. Pete Maliphant, Carol Iddles and Liz Yeadon have already completed it.
3. AOB. Possible Controllers course requested by NWO, Carol Iddles has asked Mark Dyer about running it, which he has agreed to do and dates were offered. It was agreed that Autumn would be the best time.
4. Club reps reports to clubs:

AGM date: 5th October

Relay series – dates now on SWOA website

Rearranged date and venue of Yvette Baker round – 16th May BOK

SWOA chairman’s term of office will end at AGM – looking for volunteers to take on the role

1. Date of next meeting. Tuesday 27th April 2021 8pm.

Appendices.

Appendix 1 List of officials for upcoming SWOA level B events



Appendix 2 FE permissions policy and response from Peter Hart



Appendix 3 What SWOA does

