SOUTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 27th April 2021

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; Phil Beale DEVON; Liz Yeadon SARUM;; Neil Fraser NWO; Alasdair Shaw QO; Kevin Pickering WIM.

1. Apologies.

Roger Hargreaves KERNO; Paul Taunton NGOC; Jolyon Medlock WSX

1. Chairman’s update.

Nothing to report not dealt with elsewhere.

1. Approval of minutes of last meeting.

Minutes were approved.

1. Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

Permissions from FE not specifically on agenda, but discussed under fixtures.

1. Treasurer and Membership Secretary’s report.

**Membership** – renewals have continued to be received, as restart events occur, encouraging membership of BOF. Total SWOA membership units now 739 – 86% of 2019/20 total. At a similar stage last year membership was at 94% of the full year total, so slow start, but likely to catch up with more events happening.

**Financial** – with the resumption of events, levies of £479 have been received in the last month and the only outgoing has been £20 on the website.

5.1 Inclusion of travel costs in grants for juniors (*see appendix 1)*

SR noted that post pandemic, travel costs are likely to be much higher than previously and may be the biggest expenditure for both juniors and adults. PM strongly supported the proposal, particularly the discretionary element as numbers applying for grants may oscillate considerably. Potentially 15 from SWJOS hoping to be selected for summer camps. SR explained that he would be looking for a balanced approach by those applying for funding, in that they should have ideas about what they can raise themselves and also other sources of grants eg club, school, sports bodies. RS asked why travel has not been included in the past. CV explained that other sources have funded the travel. SR stated that he will be rigorous in asking for full details of the costs and other funding sources, where not initially indicated on application form. As we should have advance warning from PM about who has been selected, SWOA will have an idea of the numbers before all applications have been received. SR will advise early applicants that decisions will only be made at a certain date, giving others a chance to apply. PM will explain the grant application process to juniors, when selections are announced. All agreed with proposal. **Action: HK and SR to update “What SWOA does” and arrange for grants page to be put under the same menu as the application form on the website.**

1. Fixtures report.

Website has been updated with Relay Series dates.

BOF has agreed the waiver for controllers from within the region at the events listed at last meeting.

Issues with FE:

RS had drafted a response to Peter Hart concerning FE stand on permissions. CV reported that BOF has tried to get a firm and reasonable response from Sport England. There does seem to be some indication that local FE offices are not necessarily follow head office guidelines.

PM wrote to his MP querying why FE, as a government funded institution, was not following government guidelines on return to sport. MP questioned FE, but response to MP was clearly a “fobbing off” exercise, as FE stated that they were “leading the country in reopening outdoor spaces”, which is clearly not orienteerings experience. The response also indicated that the head office had no understanding that FE staff are not required to be in attendance on the day at an orienteering event. It was suggested that the use of the word “events” might be being counterproductive, and that “competition” might be more productive. Parkrun is aiming to restart on 5th June, some of these are on FE land and have also come across access problems. Phil Beale pointed out that when junior parkruns started a few weeks ago 25% of the competitors were newcomers, so there is clearly an indication that people are looking for organised activities. Kevin Pickering said that WIM has an event on 17th July on FE land (reinforcing the idea that local offices are not following head office rules). Neil Fraser had received an email from FE advertising “forest runner” events (organised by FE) for September at a cost of £22 per runner (whereas Parkrun is free)

Clearly issues here which need addressing. It was agreed that SWOA would encourage all its members to write to their MPs asking them to follow up why FE is not following government guidelines. PM agreed to pull together the emails that had been shared between committee members, for general dissemination amongst the membership, to make sure that everyone is aware of the situation, and is suitably informed in order to challenge their MPs about the situation. **Action: PM to put together the relevant emails, club reps to pass this on to members and encourage writing to MPs.**

Fixtures:

Major events: no change from last meeting. British Championships are going ahead as planned. Richard Rossington as organiser, Mike Forrest coordinator, Paul Gebbett and Adam Potter planners, Phil Beale Assistant (and local) organiser. Chris Johnson is in the process of updating the map.

6.1 Email to advertise SWOL. It was agreed that email would come from CV and be passed on to club reps to inform their members. Suggested date was 16th August (soon after Scottish 6 days).

1. Recorder of Controller’s report – no changes.
2. SWJOS report.

There will potentially be a large number of SW juniors for the 5 summer camps (one for each year from top year 14 to top year 18) but venues questionable (under travel restrictions) as two are scheduled to be in Sweden. Only selection races are on the weekend of 5th/6th June in the Lake District, so neither venue nor timing (exams following week) ideal for our juniors.

SWJOS had had it’s first physical day of training since lockdown at Lyncombe, which included 6 newcomers.

PM reiterated the criteria for juniors to become part of the squad:

* Aged 12 or over
* Running at Light Green standard
* Having the emotional and physical maturity to take part in long training days and residential training camps
* Keen and able to travel all over the UK to extend their orienteering experience.

1. SWOA website

Grant application form is now on the website.

CV had updated “Appointment of Officials for level A and level B events” document (*see appendix 2*), which was agreed. **Action CV to put on website under SWOA documents.**

1. Coaching.

CV has completed online safeguarding course, which was felt to be useful, particularly as aimed entirely at orienteering.

1. AOB.

Liz Yeadon has been asked by SARUM to source a First Aid course and some places will be available for other SWOA club members. Liz will contact WSX in the first instance and if spaces still available pass to HK for wider dissemination.

Kevin Pickering reported that at a recent Caddihoe planning meeting, the difficulties of collecting in and reissuing trophies had been discussed and conclusion was to just issue certificates this year. Discussion followed concerning the value of trophies and views were very diverse. **Action: HK to put on future agenda.**

(post meeting) Paul Taunton reported that NGOC is now close to finalising the Organising team for the WOA JK22 day.

1. Club reps report to clubs:

* Information concerning FE and encouragement to write to MP
* Reiterate criteria for joining SWJOS

1. Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 25th May 8pm

Appendices

Appendix 1

Proposal to include travel costs in grants for juniors.



Appendix 2

Appointment of Officials for level A and level B events.

