SOUTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 28th March 2023

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); Neil Fraser NWO (cttee); Steve Lee Jones BOK; Liz Yeadon SARUM; Roger Hargreaves KERNO; Paul Taunton NGOC; Phil Sorrell QO; Phil Beale DEVON; Jolyon Medlock WSX.

1. Apologies. Kevin Pickering WIM
2. Chairman’s update. Nothing new to report. The sad news of Helen Errington’s death on 1st March had been reported earlier by email. Details of her funeral on 3rd April are on the BOF website.
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting. approved, no discussion.
4. Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda. RS has not yet put a post on facebook asking for the missing copies of SINS. It was suggested that he should pass this information onto club reps as well, as many people don’t use facebook. **Action: RS to advertise numbers of missing copies of SINS via Facebook and club reps**
5. Treasurer and Membership Secretary’s report. *See Appendices 1a and 1b*

SR reported that we are back in the black after receiving more levies recently.

Membership numbers are in line with this time last year – some members have left but new ones have joined.

5.1 Confirmation of 2022-23 SWJOS grant this is at the same level as recent years: £1000 for the season agreed unanimously. PM will report which SWJOS members have been selected for tours etc, once the information is available.

1. Fixtures Secretary’s report.

Since our last meeting WIM has held the British Night Championship which went very well and our thanks go Kevin Pickering and the team at WIM for all their hard work. DK reported that there had been approx. 250 competitors (usual for this event), but that WIM had made a loss on the event, mainly because they had to commission a new map of the area and championships incur greater expense in terms of levies. The loss had been expected and was budgeted for and should be reduced if map can be used again next year for the CompassSport Cup round.

Upcoming events: NGOC hosting the Caddihoe, alongside the Veteran Home Internationals in the Forest of Dean this Autumn.

BOK hosting the CSC final also Forest of Dean.

September 2024 NGOC and BOK are hosting the Junior Inter Regional Championships and Southern Championships 2025 is also in our region.

RS reported that as a region we have far fewer National events than many other regions of a comparable size (eg in the south east all their league events are national events.) he has been asked to find out from SW clubs what they feel about national events. Jolyon commented that the cost of national events for a family was considerable and highlighted that at the Northern Championships recently there was a family entry rate to encourage families. WSX is planning to make events free to all juniors. A National event does require a higher quality area and sufficient volunteers. The survey on National events will go out to clubs soon.

PM asked whether there was a similar question on the difference between local and regional events – some clubs make all their in house league events regional, which has been encouraged in the past . This has always been the choice of the club concerned, but having regional events gives officials the necessary experience to go on to the next level and gives competitors ranking points. KERNO, DEVON, NGOC are making all their events regional, but this does mean that they should try to get controllers from another club (if that proves difficult they can apply to SWOA to use a controller from their own club). SR reported that there has been much discussion at QO committee about the level of events and the decision had been made to go for fewer, but higher quality events in future.

Permissions: The Forestry England agreement is up for renewal this September and there was a very brief consultation period in which clubs could give their views to BOF about what they should try to aim for in the negotiations. Outcomes from this were that British Orienteering should be asking for 1. free (or very low cost) for small activities such as coaching. 2. The ability to get early indications as to whether a request would be likely to be accepted, to avoid wasting effort in mapping, planning and organisation only to have applications turned down at the last minute.

* 1. British Sprint Championships 2026  *See Appendix 3*

Having bowed out of the British Long and Relay championships in 2025 SWOA has offered the British sprint and sprint relay chamionships in 2026. RS asks for SWOA support in this offer, do we have a vision of where it should be and should it be a club or a SWOA organised event.

Roger Hargreaves reported that pre Covid he had been working on a sprint map of HMS Raleigh a military base in South East Cornwall. He is hoping to complete this which may provide a suitable venue. This would need checking with the base commander. Concerns were raised about using a military area for such a major event, as permissions would always be dependent on there being no military emergency at the time.

Other venues discussed were Bath University, Exeter University, Bristol University and University of the West of England (Bristol).

Paul questioned whether people would be prepared to travel to Exeter (or beyond) for a 2 day event and felt that the other venues would be preferable being more central. Concerns about Bristol’s Low emissions zone making Bristol University difficult. Steve Lee Jones said that BOK committee had a preference for Bath University as 1st choice (being more technical) with UWE (very easy access from the motorway) as the 2nd choice members of the committee also supported Exeter University as a suitable location. Phil Beale queried the timing of the event as in a university location would need to avoid exam time and end of term. Steve pointed out that many universities also host commercial events in the holidays, so that would also be a consideration. AV suggested that by 2026 there is likely to be a greater emphasis on using a venue which can be easily accessed by public transport, and also possibly, offers accommodation.

After much discussion the order of preference was Bath, UWE, Exeter.

Would organising entity be SWOA or one (or two) of the SW clubs? Much would depend upon the officials. CV stated that being a championship event the officials must be experienced in large events. RS pointed out that if we only use experienced officials then our pool of experienced officials will not increase. HK suggested that each role should have two officials one inexperienced and one experienced. Steve Lee Jones said that inexperienced officials should have a very engaged mentor or deputy. Officials required would be: Coordinator, Day organiser, Planner, Mapper. Controllers would be appointed at National level. Phil Sorrell pointed out that DEVON and QO needed more grade C controllers and having such an event in the near future might be the inspiration for club members to increase their qualifications/capabilities. Liz Yeadon had been organiser mentor for the Sarum Saunter – the inexperienced organiser took on the major role and she worked with him, supporting and guiding.

This still needs more discussion. **Action: HK to add to agenda for next meeting.**

RS asked that we make a decision now about whether it would be SWOA or club organised as the offer needed to be confirmed with BOF. CV said that if SWOA was the organising entity then its role would be to take ultimate responsibility and all officials would report to SWOA, which would act in a similar way to a board of directors. It was agreed that it should be a SWOA event as this would be the best way to develop new officials around the region.

6.2 DEVON event report: Caddihoe and Tamar Triple

Phil Beale reports:

**Caddihoe Chase/Weekend** - our committee have decided that with the strong feeling at the last SWOA meeting that this has always been a DEVON event, that we should take this back as from 2024 onwards as our major event in our club calendar each year and we focus our efforts on making that our premier event. We will further discuss the format and any rules for this and take into consideration some of the suggestions that other SWOA clubs have made. We can then also decide what happens with the trophies ourselves, as they would become our responsibility.

**Tamar Triple 2024** - we have had difficulty in securing car parking and assembly areas for Braunton Burrows for the dates currently shown on the calendar and have investigated other options which would have included bussing but feel that is not ideal on a Bank Holiday weekend.

Around the time of the last TT in 2022 the KERNO  and DEVON chairs discussed whether the future of the Tamar Triple in its usual format should be reconsidered due to the increasing difficulty of securing good quality areas at the usual time of year, but no firm conclusion was reached.

The DEVON committee has therefore now decided that we wish to step back from future involvement at the Tamar Triple and have suggested to KERNO that they may wish to take it on in future in whatever form they consider viable. We would be prepared to assist them with volunteer support if they were to do so.

Roger Hargreaves reported that KERNO, as a small club, has competent but aging officials and the club feels that they don’t have the resources or areas to put on a three day event over the bank holiday weekend and probably not a two day event at that time of year, though may consider it later in the year. It is unlikely that Tamar Triple will continue as a bank holiday weekend event.

1. SWJOS report.

Pete Maliphant thanked SWOA for continued support and reported from the recent Interland Competition in Belgium, 6 members of the SWJOS took part finishing in 3rd, 4th,5th, 6th 7th and 9th places.

In the British Long distance championships last weekend two of the youngest squad members had success: Daniel Waring won M12 and Alice French 3rd on W12 also Lyra Medlock won W16 and Ben Perry was 3rd on M16.

He hopes that the squad will continue to make good use of the SWOA support and indicated that there were likely to be a reasonable number of grant requests in the near future. Some junior squads are experiencing a gap in some age groups as a result of lack of events during Covid, but this doesn’t seem to have affected the SW squad so much.

1. Recorder of Controller’s Report *See Appendix 3*

AV reported that despite the request for people wanting to do a Controllers course at the last meeting, there have been no takers as yet. He requested that club reps report the request again after this meeting. If people don’t have all the necessary experience but are likely to get it in the near future they should apply anyway.

1. SWOA website.

9.1 SWOA Safeguarding policy HK reported that she had received an email from BOF asking that all clubs and associations had their safeguarding policy clear on their website, accessible from the front page, including a template for what needed to be in the policy. The template was clearly intended for clubs not associations and needed the name of a welfare and safeguarding officer which the association doesn’t have.

PM said that on the safeguarding form it was clear that all issues should go to the club welfare officer or straight to BOF, so an association officer did not seem necessary. Phil Sorrell had attended the seminar in which this issue was discussed and felt that it was really aimed at clubs. It was agreed that before going any further we need to check with BOF. **Action: HK to ask BOF whether an officer was necessary for an association and to agree method of adapting the template used for clubs.**

1. AOB. none
2. Club reps report to clubs.

* Another plea for more people to come forward as controllers or to upgrade to a higher level.
* Ask whether the club has completed the necessary details for welfare and safeguarding and has them easily accessible on their website.
* From 2024 DEVON will take on the Caddihoe as an annual event.

1. Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 23rd May 8pm (Helen unavailable – Arthur will take the minutes)

Appendices

Appendix 1a Appendix 1b

SWOA Accounts summary SWOA accounts detail

 

Appendix 2

British Sprint Championships 2026 – decisions to be made



Appendix 3

Recorder of Controllers report

