SOUTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023

PRESENT:

Christine Vince KERNO [Chairman]; Steve Robertson QO [Treasurer]; Richard Sansbury QO [Fixtures].

Committee: Dick Keighley WIM; Arthur Vince KERNO).

Club Reps: Neil Fraser NWO; Roger Hargreaves KERNO; Richard Hudson BOK; Adrian Taylor DEVON; Paul Taunton NGOC.

1. Apologies: Helen Kelsey, BOK [Secretary]; Julie Astin WSX, Pete Maliphant BOK & SWJOS, Kevin Pickering WIM [Committee]; Phil Sorrell QO & Liz Yeadon SARUM [Club Reps].
2. Chairman’s Update

Christine would be raising the issue of succession planning for officials under Item 8, the Recorder of Controllers’ report. She thanked Jane & Peter Stagg of BOK for agreeing to act as SWOA Safeguarding Officers, as well as for BOK.

1. Approval of minutes of the meeting on 28th March

These were approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

1. Matters Arising

All covered by agenda items.

1. Treasurer & Membership Secretary’s Report [Appendix 1]

Finance

Steve reported that the fee charged by *veudesign* for operating the SWOA website would be increasing from £20 to £25 a month; no problem with this. The cost to SWOA juniors and former juniors for training camps and representing GB in competitions was increasing significantly; flight costs for continental tours were no longer cheap. However the cost of funding 50% grants was containable within present SWOA funds; about 80% of those selected actually ask for financial help.

Membership was down by 4% on the number for last year at this date – 790 units rather than 823.

The number of juniors was 24% down. The opinion of the meeting was that the COVID lockdown resulted in a lack of opportunity for 8 to 10 year-olds to try the sport, which has had a knock-on effect. With fewer young juniors – M/W 10s & 12s – it was more difficult for them to make and meet friends at events, which was important to them. Twelve is a critical age for maintaining interest. Clubs, even big ones like BOK, found it hard to make up relay teams. Jolyon had approached the BOF Events & Competitions Committee about accepting alliances of neighbouring clubs for relays but without success.

1. Fixture Secretary’s Report

Richard gave this update:

BOK had hosted the SW Sprint Champs: NGOC will be staging the Caddihoe event along with the Veteran Home International on 30th September/1st October. BOK will be staging the CompassSport Cup final in November in the Forest of Dean. In 2024 SWOA will be hosting the Junior Interregional Champs; in 2025 the Southern Champs; and in 2026 the British Sprint Champs. and Relays – RAF Lyneham had been suggested as a venue for these but there was a risk of late cancellation of permissions.

1. SW Junior Squad Report

See Appendix 2

1. Recorder of Controllers’ Report

See Appendix 3

8.1 Item 5 – *Training* gave rise to a discussion on succession planning for organisers, planners and controllers, and how to attract more volunteers. Christine made the point that to be a controller you had to have planned; the search for new planners could be started by approaching regular competitors, and for controllers with those who had planning experience. She recognised that not all orienteers were available for volunteering; perhaps because of caring for small children or elderly parents, or demanding jobs. The role of Volunteer Coordinator had been successful in some clubs, but not all had tried it. The following suggestions and comments were made as a result of this introduction to the problem:

8.2 QO will be running a course for those who want to plan [Steve]. Steve noted that there was no apparent resource for an organising course on the BOF website. Roger pointed out that a Major Event Handbook existed but was now out-of-date.

8.3 Orienteering websites need a *volunteers* section [Adrian].

8.4 NGOC had run an organising/planning course. The club has T-shirts for helpers and a Volunteer Coordinator. Juniors could assist a parent who is an official [Paul].

8.5 Any difficulty in finding out who is in your club to ask to help can be resolved by having a member [normally the membership secretary] ask for access to the BOF list, despite GDPR. [Christine].

8.6 Discounted – or free – entry fees for helpers need to be well advertised.

8.7 SportIdent has the facility for tagging entrants as helpers, but this doesn’t seem to have been used [Christine].

8.8 Parkrun events always publish a list of all those who helped on the day with the results for that day [Arthur].

1. Any other Business

9.1 Colour-coded badges: Jolyon reported that he took the stock of badges to the events that he went to, and had had an enthusiastic response from juniors. He has yet to cover KERNO, NGOC & NWO.

9.2 English Orienteering Council AGM

 An invitation to this, to be held by video conference on Wednesday 14th June at 8pm has been received. The EOC, currently an unincorporated charitable association, needs to change its constitution, adopt a Memorandum of Understanding with BOF and pursue registration with the Charity Commission. Those changes are required to protect its officials, ensure that BOF insurance covers teams and mitigate the risk of losing access to its bank account. More details are given in an email from the EOC Secretary, Scott Collier of KERNO, to the SWOA chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Christine is willing to attend the AGM.

1. Club reps report to their clubs

Club representatives are asked to take the issues of succession planning and volunteering covered in Item 8 above for serious discussion by their club committee; **and** to report that club’s best practice back to the SWOA committee for its next meeting.

11 Date of next meeting

 Tuesday 25th July at 8pm by ZOOM

*These minutes written by Arthur Vince, KERNO*

Appendix 1





Appendix 2 / 3

