SOUTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 25th July 2023

PRESENT:

Christine Vince KERNO (chairman); Helen Kelsey BOK (secretary); Richard Sansbury QO (fixtures); Dick Keighley WIM (cttee); Arthur Vince KERNO (cttee); Neil Fraser NWO;(cttee); Kevin Pickering WIM (cttee); Roger Hargreaves KERNO; Richard Hudson BOK; Adrian Taylor DEVON.

1. Apologies.

Steve Robertson QO (treasurer); Pete Maliphant BOK (cttee and SWJOS); Julie Astin WSX (cttee); Liz Yeadon SARUM; Jolyon Medlock WSX; Paul Taunton NGOC;

1. Chairman’s update.

CV reported that as well as Erik Peckett, orienteering had also recently lost Arthur Boyt (KERNO and DEVON), Jenny Tennant (QO) and Pat Grenfell (BOK)

1. Approval of minutes of last meeting.

Minutes approved without amendment.

1. Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

Christine attended EOC AGM at which EOC was formally registered with BOF and as such is covered by BOF insurance.

1. Treasurer and Membership Secretary’s report. *See Appendix 1*

Report shows that our finances are gradually decreasing and although sufficient for immediate future, we may need to think about increasing the SWOA levy, or alternatively reducing the grant support. The committee can change the levy at a meeting, whereas the membership fee (currently nil) is a decision for the AGM. RS proposed that we continue with current levy and recommend a zero membership fee at next AGM on the understanding that next year’s committee addresses the financial issues. AV queried what difference increasing the levy would make. **Action: SR to do some modelling to indicate how much of an increase in levy would be sufficient to maintain our finances.**  KP suggested that we could ask clubs for a donation as at least some of the clubs are very healthy financially.

DK suggested that it would be better to reduce the level of grants on the understanding that clubs could make up the difference, we will need to ascertain whether clubs are in a position to do this.

1. Fixtures report.

Current situation:

NGOC: Caddihoe Chase & VHI in Forest of Dean end of September

BOK: CompassSport final in Forest of Dean in November

2024 Junior inter Regional Championship BOK and NGOC

2025 Southern Championship, possibly Sarum Saunter

2026 British Sprint Championship – not much progress, but DEVON has offered Exeter University as a reserve venue (though are concerned about the embargo required for 2 years prior to event, if a final decision hasn’t been made, however hopefully a decision will have been made by end of 2024 when embargo would need to start). BOK has offered Bath University, but are struggling with the change in personnel and reluctance of university to commit to something so far in advance. However, RS reinforced that we do need a decision very soon so that other events can be planned around it.

1. SWJOS report. No report in Pete’s absence, but it was noted that we had received reports on both Interland and European Youth Orienteering Championships from Juniors who were supported by grants from SWOA*. See Appendix 2.* These reports are now on the SWOA website.
2. Recorder of Controller’s Report

The list on the SWOA website has been updated, so far only one candidate for training – Adrian Taylor. Karen French is thinking of upgrading to a level B and Jackie Hallett has expressed an interest in becoming a controller but have neither have submitted their forms yet. RS pointed out that Peter Hart is making a national version of this list, but inactive controllers remain on the list. KP: the accounts for the British Nights 2022 indicated that the controller had come from a very distant area, so expenses were considerable. For 2023, WIM found a controller and asked BOF to approve (rather than waiting for BOF to appoint one) so expenses considerably reduced.

CV: The lack of applicants to become controllers is part of a bigger picture about encouraging people to volunteer for help with events both as officials and more minor roles. It was suggested that the problem of volunteering should be taken on as a long term project by SWOA, with reporting back from club reps at each meeting as to how they are progressing with getting new volunteers. Adrian Taylor has written a report detailing what he has done so far in terms of looking at club websites to identify strategies for encouraging volunteers and there is lots of useful information on the DEVON website, which other clubs could use as a starting point. CV was on a working group looking at volunteering some years ago, looking at the need for a club volunteer coordinator. Pre pandemic, SWOA paid for some courses run by clubs to help members become organisers, planners, and controllers. It would be very helpful if the clubs who ran them could identify who attended and whether those people are now volunteering in the capacity of the official aimed at by the courses. It was suggested that juniors who have received grants should be encouraged to progress to volunteering as officials. AV: we should not always be using the same officials for bigger events as it doesn’t increase the pool of potential officials for the future. AV does not want to be solely responsible for running controllers’ courses, Mark and Katy Dyer (BOK) have run such courses in the past. KP: taking part in a planners or controllers course can help to improve your own personal orienteering and this should be stressed as a good reason for volunteering. KP asked about getting volunteers for juries. AV: in all his many times as juror, he has only been involved in one jury. Clubs should be reminded that SWOA will fund such courses up to £100, provided they are advertised to all SWOA clubs.

1. SWOA website.

HK will put an announcement about Pat Grenfell on the website.

1. AOB.

HK: this meeting was using a Pro version of Zoom on an account belonging to another club and it was suggested that the two clubs share the annual cost. RH pointed out that it is not allowed to share the login details with anyone else, so would not be something which could be done officially. CV asked if Pete Maliphant has an account for the SWJOS and whether that could be considered a SWOA account. **Action: HK to check the terms and conditions of a Professional Account.**

Roger Hargreaves:Phil and Adele Newell will be moving away from Cornwall in September, so new Chair will be Graham Pring and new secretary Steve Beech.

CV: We need to decide a date for the SWOA AGM and get it advertised. 26th September was agreed. **Action HK to advertise date on website and email all club secretaries asking them to advertise to club members.**

1. Club reps report to clubs.
2. AGM

The SWOA AGM will be held on 26th September at 8pm using Zoom.  All are welcome. Registration details to follow later.

1. Volunteering and increasing the number of members who take official roles at events.

* DEVON has some very useful information about volunteering on the website – all clubs should aim to do something similar, encouraging more members to volunteer and stressing that becoming a planner or controller can result in improving the individuals’ personal orienteering performance.
* Before Covid SWOA supported many courses for organisers, planners and controllers, please can clubs identify what progress the attendees have made towards fulfilling these roles?
* SWOA will subsidise clubs offering training course up to £100, provided course is open to all SWOA clubs.

1. Club members should be aware of BOF vacancies for Interland England Team Manager and England Senior Team Manager.  *See Appendix 3 for job descriptions.*
2. Date of next meeting.

17th October 2023 for new committee appointed at AGM on 26th September 2023

Appendices

Appendix 1: Treasurer and Membership Secretary’s Report

 

Appendix 2: Reports from juniors supported by SWOA grants

 

Appendix 3: Job descriptions from BOF for team managers

 