SOUTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 17th October 2023

PRESENT:

Christine Vince KERNO (chairman); Helen Kelsey BOK (secretary); Richard Sansbury QO (fixtures); Dick Keighley WIM (cttee); Arthur Vince KERNO (cttee); Julie Astin WSX (cttee); Neil Fraser NWO;(cttee); Kevin Pickering WIM (cttee); Pete Maliphant BOK (cttee); Roger Hargreaves KERNO; Adrian Taylor DEVON; Liz Yeadon SARUM; Ian Jones NGOC.

1. Apologies.

Jolyon Medlock WSX; Richard Hudson BOK.

1. Chairman’s update.

CV commented that Spencer Modica had been listed as QO on her AGM report and should have been DEVON. Thanks were due to John Rye for the all the work he put into organising the VHI and to Steve Robertson for helping with the finances. Thanks also due to Jackie Hallett for arranging the catering for the VHI teams.

1. Approval of minutes of last meeting.

It was noted that in item 8, Karen French had been listed as expressing an interest in becoming a controller – in fact she is already a controller and was interested in upgrading to level B. With this amendment the minutes were approved.

1. Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

Helen had checked the terms and conditions of a professional Zoom licence and the suggestion of sharing it with another club would not satisfy these, so it was agreed to continue as we are, using the free version.

1. Treasurer and Membership Secretary’s report.

No report as so soon after the AGM, only a couple of payments made, and funds now stand at £7300.

Steve reported that John Rye had done a lot of hard work with very thorough budgeting for the VHI and now that all finances have been dealt with there was a £17 surplus. The aim had been to break even.

* 1. Increase in levy to maintain grant support. *See Appendix 1*

With our current levy and level of grant support, particularly for the juniors, SWOA funds are gradually decreasing, and this would not be sustainable beyond a couple of years. Steve presented various scenarios considering maintaining the levy at current rate and decreasing the grant level, to maintaining the grant level and increasing the levy sufficiently to cover it. His recommended option was to increase the levy by 15% (increase from 60p to 69p per adult) and reduce the level of grant from 50% to 40%.

Most of the clubs are awarding 25-30% of the costs for junior tours and competitions. Paul Taunton had indicated that some of the NGOC juniors were in Welsh Orienteering Association, and they regularly received a grant of 30% of total cost.

The BOF levy has gone up by 10% (now £1.65) per adult and senior non- members levy is £2.50 per adult per event. Pete supported Steve’s proposal as very reasonable and a fair way forward, reporting that the juniors are very grateful for the support they receive from SWOA and will continue to be at 40% rather than 50%.

The committee were generally in favour of this compromise and the increase in levy to 69p was proposed and agreed unanimously. It was agreed that the level of grant support would remain at 50% for those who had applied already and would change to 40% at the start of 2024.

There was some discussion as to what constitutes a junior, as those in full-time education have been included in that category and it was agreed this should continue. A few adults had put in grant requests for VHI and SHI costs. Christine proposed 25% of competitor contribution and this was agreed.

1. Fixtures report.

Richard reported that there had been some progress with the British Sprint and Relay championships in 2026. Given that it was impossible to pin universities down to a specific date this far in advance a suggested date had been chosen, considering term dates, of 27th/28th June, with a backup of 5th/6th September. These dates will be put to the fixtures committee to enable date planning of other national events in 2026.

Richard also reported from a national fixtures meeting held the previous day:

* Mid Wales Orienteering club is being ‘mothballed’ due to the lack of active orienteers. It is hoped that the club will be able to start again in the future.
* The National Events most struggling for support are the British Schools events as there were no clubs lined up to organise them from 2024 onwards. Richard suggested that some SW clubs could consider offering to host either the British Schools Championships or British Schools Score Championship.

Liz Yeadon commented that these events represent a lot of effort by the club for very little financial reward, that clubs are struggling to get access to areas for their adult club events and putting on one of the school’s championships alongside the club’s usual programme of events would be stretching the club’s volunteer capacity.

Steve Robertson said that QO had looked at the possibility of hosting the British school’s championships but had decided that given the complexity of the event and the need to put on another event in the area on the same weekend it was not within the club’s capacity.

Adrian Taylor reported that DEVON had also discussed this, and the conclusion was that it stretched the club’s resources too far.

Kevin Pickering made a case for supporting schools orienteering. To keep the orienteering scene going, new people have to be brought into the sport, and schools orienteering contributes to that objective. WIM had successfully held the British Schools Score Champs in 2018.

**Action: HK to add to agenda for next meeting.**

* 1. The difference between activities and events

This had come under discussion at the recent AGM (as it did the previous year) when the fixtures secretary listed the number of activities and events put on by each SW club during the year.

Christine reported that there is a clear definition in the BOF rules and there was a clarification of this relating specifically to virtual orienteering course (eg MapRun) in Peter Hart’s recent CEO newsletter. *See Appendix 2.*

The main difference seems to be that an activity is something where there is no intention to publish results. If clubs register events wrongly, as activities, then no levy is paid and there is no BOF insurance for the event. *Post meeting: Steve Robertson pointed out that the above statement is incorrect and BOF insurance is dependent on the event or activity being registered.*

Dick reported that WIM offers a series of 12 MapRun events charging £20 for the series (no option to enter individual events), this is a league so results are published and hence they count as events, BOF levy is paid and a small fee to MapRun. 46 people entered (juniors are free)

Neil reported that NWO had a similar league of 12 MapRun events , with a cost of £25 to enter the league. fees to MapRun and Openmap paid, but not levies – club is now aware that these should be registered as events and levies paid and will need to consider the financial implications for next league. To break even the club relies on few of those entered actually turning up for all 12 events, as levies are only paid on those who attend.

Steve noted that QO’s JOG events are increasingly becoming things that levies will have to paid on, as courses suitable for adults are run alongside the junior training.

It is clear from the notes from BOF that the distinction between activity and event has nothing to do with whether a charge is made to competitors.

The use of MapRun and other Virtual Orienteering Apps came to the fore during COVID when no events were allowed, and people ran the courses whenever they wanted – but things have now moved on and although many clubs use Virtual Orienteering, they must make a clear distinction between activity and event and pay a levy for the latter.

1. SWJOS report.

Pete reported that since the AGM report, the SWJOS came 3rd (very close to 2nd) behind Yorkshire and Scotland in the Junior Inter Regional Championships.

The Talent South group has been chosen and 6 of the 18 are SW juniors (chosen from 7 regions), so the SWJOS should continue for the next few years with similar strength and success to recent years.

JIRCs next year are in SW. Financially the squad is in good shape and a full programme of training has been planned for the autumn and winter.

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

Dick reported that Chris Branford had emailed to say that John Shucksmith and John Warren wished to stand down as level B controllers and that 3 level C controllers from WIM wished to move up to level B and will need to do a controller’s course. Arthur needs them to contact him, telling him exactly what they still need to do to satisfy the requirements for level B.

(Roger Hargreaves left the meeting at this point)

1. Volunteering – report back from club reps.

Report sent in advance from Paul Taunton NGOC *See Appendix 4*

Neil Fraser NWO – always the same core team of volunteers, having trouble with getting people to take on principal posts on the committee.

Julie Astin WSX – no difficulty in getting helpers for events, but need new membership and fixtures secretary, need for younger members on the committee. Need to identify new planners and organisers.

Liz Yeadon SARUM - doubling up on main officials to train new people up.

Adrian Taylor DEVON - building into new members welcome letter asking for info about what experience people have. New members take on maintenance of POC. Emails to all members do produce results. Best results from identifying potential planners and organisers and approaching them directly. Targeting youngsters who have received financial support from the club.

Kevin Pickering WIM – Kevin no longer chair – new chair is Kath Pike, now have an M21 and a junior on the committee. Club wide appeals have limited success, identifying individuals and doing some “arm twisting” more successful.

Ian Jones NGOC – club needs a development/training officer to focus on new members who are getting enthusiastic about the sport.

1. AOB.

Liz reported the sad news that Julie, Tom Wilkinson’s wife died last Sunday (Tom’s burger van).

Richard expressed a suspicion that the club reps report to clubs (identified at the end of each committee meeting) was not actually getting out to the membership of at least some of the clubs. After some discussion it was agreed that secretary should circulate these items to all club chairs and secretaries. **Action: HK to circulate item 11 to all clubs when circulating draft minutes.**

1. Club reps report to clubs.

* SWOA levy will be going up in January to 69p per adult.
* Junior grants are likely to be 40% from January, with a hope that clubs will be able to supplement this grant appropriately.
* All clubs and members attention should be drawn to the BOF rules about the difference between events and activities as clarified in the CEO newsletter of July 2023

1. Date of next meeting.

16th January 2024, 8pm using Zoom

Appendices

Appendix 1: Grant/Levy scenarios



Appendix 2: Extract from CEO newsletter clarifying difference between activities and events.



Appendix 3: Recorder of Controller’s report.



Appendix 4: Volunteering. A report from NGOC

