SOUTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 19th November 2024

PRESENT:

Christine Vince KERNO (chairman); Helen Kelsey BOK (secretary); Steve Robertson QO (treasurer); Rob Mills WIM (fixtures); Pete Maliphant BOK (cttee and SWJOS); Arthur Vince KERNO (cttee); Julie Astin WSX (cttee); Neil Fraser NWO;(cttee); Kevin Pickering WIM (cttee);Liz Yeadon SARUM; Adrian Taylor DEVON; Richard Hudson BOK.

1. Apologies. Roger Hargreaves KERNO
2. Chairman’s update. Little to report, except that there should have been an agenda item: Matters arising from recent AGM. The only matter arising was the attendance of an unknown participant who may, or may not have been a member of SWOA. HK had put the link to the meeting on the website and emailed it to all clubs asking them to circulate it, rather than asking for prospective attendees to email asking for the link. The reason for this was to try to encourage wider participation. Various options were discussed such as using a waiting room. PM said that the host had the option of removing participants from the meeting, which would work if a participant was asked to identify themselves and their club and failed to do so.
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting. Approved without amendment.
4. Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda. None
5. Treasurer and Membership Secretary’s report.

Membership renewal season is now and there is a steady stream of renewals from BOF

Since the Year End/AGM report the SWOA accounts are up to date and the present available funds stand at £7,755 (Year end 2023/24 £10,084).

2024/25 Levies received to date are £1,788 and as mentioned at the AGM we had a number of 2023/24 grant applications that carried over into 2024/25.

Grant awards to date total £3,933 (Continental Tours and Representation £2,793 and Coaching course £1,140), Other expenses total £184 (website/certificates/trophies).

I don’t expect to receive any more grant requests until next Spring when Interland is in The Netherlands in March.

We do have plenty in our funds and no specific items to spend it on – fewer juniors requested grants than was expected.

KP said that spending money is also something that comes up frequently at WIM committee meetings – the club has a healthy bank balance. Events are not planned to make a profit, but invariably do (as organisers aim not to incur a loss) recently WIM has spent a considerable amount on a professional map of a new area, but the club doesn’t have enough areas for that to be a regular expense. SR reiterated that the two main big expenses are professional mapping and a complete refresh of SI equipment. It was agreed that money should be kept as a contingency fund for when this is required. The other expense is when events are cancelled or postponed. It was noted that more event officials are claiming expenses now than were pre-Covid. CV suggested that in trying to increase the pool of volunteers clubs should be using less experienced club members as “trainees” by getting them to shadow an official for an event, which would incur double the level of expenses.

Liz Yeadon stated that she had sent the budget for the Southern Champs to Steve, which he says looked fine and should make a reasonable profit, although Liz is a little unsure of the numbers at this stage.

1. Fixtures report.

CV welcomed Rob Mills as the new Fixtures Secretary.

RM gave an update, thanking Richard Sansbury for his hard work which meant that we are in a good situation for 2025, with a full SWOL programme and a full suite of SW Championships planned.

Main challenge now is that SW is due to host the Southern Night Champs in December 2025 and so far does not have a venue for this. Adrian Taylor later said that DEVON had been discussing using Braunton for this event at their committee meeting yesterday.

2025-26

Most SWOL events have dates

UKOL events are: two events on weekend of Southern Champs, Urban in Gillingham on Saturday (WIM) Sarum Saunter on Sunday; both days of the Caddihoe weekend.

UKurban League events: Gillingham( as above) and in June Canford Heath, Poole (WSX).

SEUOL has not yet been announced.

Events still requiring offers:

Peter Palmer relays 2025

SW CompassSport Cup heat in 2026 – WIM is looking into this, are there any other offers?

Generally we are really struggling to get venues for junior events in 2026 and beyond, currently have no offers for British School Champs, British Schools Score Champs, Yvette Baker final for 2026. (WIM had a bad experience this year having arranged permissions for British Schools and then had to cancel due to lack of entries)

East Anglia has withdrawn from offering the British Middle Distance Championship In 2027, so asking if any SW club would be prepared to take it on. It is normally held in the Spring, but an offer at a different time of year would probably also be considered.

In 2027 SW will be hosting the Southern Championships and Southern Night Championships on the same weekend – we need offers for this (WSX is currently looking into holding the Night Championship at Studland)

In 2028, SW will be hosting the JK.

The Fixtures Bulletin will continue to be produced and the next one is due to go out at the end of the month.

SR pointed out that DEVON already has all its officials in place for next year’s Caddihoe weekend.

HK asked if there was any progress on the British Sprint and Sprint Relay Championships to be hosted by BOK in 2026. Richard said that Coordinator and two day organisers had been identified, but not planners as yet. BOK will report progress back to next SWOA committee meeting. **Action: BOK to report progress to next meeting.**

Adrian recorded that Steven Hayter has taken over from Phil Beale as DEVON fixtures secretary. His details need to go to RM. **Action: Adrian to ask Steven to pass his details to Rob Mills for contact list.**

1. SWJOS report. Everything going well at the moment. There will be a big group going to Hawkshead for get together with 16s from the other junior squads. The Christmas Weekend will be in the Forest of Dean.

Currently there are 31 active members in the squad, although we will be losing 7 at the end of this season. To explain Treasurer’s comments about fewer grants paid out than expected, some parents chose not to apply for grants, and many parents don’t claim expenses for squad weekends, so SWJOS also has a bit more money available than was anticipated.

Referring to the junior events, the entries do seem to be very small, Peter Palmer relays had a very small entry this year and the British Schools Champs no more than 200 entries across all school years (none from SWJOS)

KP commented on the great atmosphere at Holmsley event where the junior squad was using the event for some training sessions. PM noted that similarly there had been training at Whitchurch Common event (DEVON)

1. Recorder of Controller’s Report

Mark Dyer will be running a grade C controllers course in Bristol area, next year probably March 15th . Post meeting the date was rearranged to Autumn 2025.

The list of controllers on the SWOA website was correct as of November 5th , clubs should refer to this list to identify possible controllers for their events, not keep a printed copy as it is constantly changing.

1. Volunteering CV suggested that clubs encourage trainee officials to shadow more experiencedones during their preparation for an event.
2. AOB.

HK highlighted the report from Eskarina Medlock which had been circulated before the meeting and said how interesting it is to hear about the tours and camps. It would be nice to have a few more from different people. **Action: HK to thank Esk from the committee for her report.**

HK reported that SWOA and all clubs had received an email from Peter Hart confirming that he has stepped down as CEO of BOF and that Peter Brokke has taken on the role temporarily.BOF is now ready to advertise the position and any interested candidates should use the link in the email for details of the CEO role.

Adrian reported that DEVON voted to change its constitution at the last AGM and restructured the committee, so that it now has 6 elected members: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Safeguarding officer, Development Lead (overseeing skills development and volunteering) and Events Lead (overseeing development of access, mapping and events)

Phil Beale will be coordinating skills training for volunteers, reporting to the Development Lead.

1. Club reps report to clubs.

Grade C Controllers course next year in Bristol.

Offers sought to host the British Middle Distance Championships in 2027, preferably before the end of the year.

Clubs should be encouraging newer members to shadow experienced event officials to give them more confidence to volunteer as officials in future.

1. Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 21st January 8pm.