

SOUTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

SECRETARY: Helen Kelsey
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MINUTES OF 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held online using Zoom on Tuesday 22nd October 2024 at 20.00

Those present:

Officers: Christine Vince KERNO, (Chairman); Helen Kelsey BOK, (Secretary); Steve Robertson QO, (Treasurer and Membership Secretary); Richard Sansbury QO, (Fixtures Secretary).

Committee: Dick Keighley WIM, Pete Maliphant BOK, Julie Astin WSX, Neil Fraser NWO, Arthur Vince KERNO, Kevin Pickering WIM.

SW members: Richard Hudson BOK; Adrian Taylor DEVON; Roger Hargreaves KERNO; Graham Pring DEVON; Ian Jones NGOC; Rhiannon Fadeyibi NGOC; Rob Mills WIM; Andrew Bedowski WSX; Jack Knight KERNO, Tom Knight KERNO; Tess Knight KERNO.

Another attendee labelled "Nick" joined after the start of the meeting, but did not use video and did not identify themselves

The meeting opened at 8.03pm.

1 Apologies

Liz & Alan Yeadon SARUM.

2 Approval of Minutes of 2023 AGM

There were no amendments to the minutes, which were approved as a true record of the meeting.

3 Matters arising from those minutes.

No matters arising not addressed elsewhere.

4 Reports:

4.1 Chairman's report.

Chairman's report [\[Appendix 1\]](#) no questions

4.2 Fixtures Secretary's report. Richard Sansbury. [\[Appendix 2\]](#)

It was queried as to how BOK managed to put on so many activities. Richard Hudson said that BOK had a training run every week, each one being registered as an activity.

4.3 SW Junior Squad Manager's report. Pete Maliphant. [\[Appendix 3\]](#).

Christine Vince expressed her thanks to Pete and the team for all the hard work they have put into supporting the juniors and helping them to become such a successful squad.

4.4 Recorder of Controllers' report. Arthur Vince. [\[Appendix 4\]](#)

No questions

5 Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report. Steve Robertson.

The Membership and Financial report was illustrated by a series of slides [\[Appendix 5\]](#)

5.1 SWOA Membership [\[Appendix 5a\]](#)

Membership Units – 2019/20 – 2023/24

- Seniors – up and down over the last 5 years
- Families – Steady decline
- Juniors – up and down but declining over the 5-year period.

Membership – broken down into Seniors and Juniors

- Seniors – overall down 3% over 5-year period
- Juniors – significant decline, 33% down over 5-year period
- Decline in family membership probably resulted in a disproportionately higher decline in Juniors.

Membership – Age Demographic (all members)

- Few surprises – mature 45+ members have aged, and numbers declined.
- Sharp fall off in membership post 70 years old.
- Little change in 15–40-year age categories
- Significant reduction in 0- to 15-year-old categories

Club membership

- Half of SWOA clubs have seen a decline in membership.
- QO highest percentage decline – driven by reduced family membership.
- Other clubs have maintained, or in the case of DEVON, a marginal increase.
- Are there any lessons to be learnt from these latter clubs?

5.2 Finance [Appendix 5b]

Levy Income

- Highest in 5-year period – SWOA levy increase in January 2024 and some Activities now reclassified as Events,

Grant Approvals

- Approved grants – significantly lower than prior year, primarily due to later timing of requests for continental tours and representation causing grant approvals to fall into 2024-25.
- The first 3 months of 2024-25 have already seen grant approvals of £4,200.

Full Year Result

- Higher levies and lower grants result in a 2023-24 surplus of £3,552, compared with deficit of £3,092 in 2022-23.

SWOA Funds

- Total funds at 2023-24-year end are £10,084.
- Improvement of £6,595 due to the 2023-24 surplus and entry fees from Veteran Home International.
- Sound budgeting by NGOC for VHI meant that the event broke even and SWOA supported the event cashflow across the 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years.

Membership Fees and Levies

- Recognising the SWOA financial position it is recommended that SWOA membership fees are unchanged (zero for all members).
- Similarly, the SWOA committee do not anticipate making any change to the SWOA levy fees in the 2024-25 period.

6 Determination of Membership fees for 2024

- Following the report on the SWOA financial position and the recommendation to keep membership fees unchanged, the meeting voted that SWOA membership fees should remain at zero for all members

7 Election of officers

- 8.1 Chairman: Christine Vince KERNO. Proposed by Helen Kelsey, seconded by Adrian Taylor
- 8.2 Administrative Secretary: Helen Kelsey BOK Proposed by Christine Vince, seconded by Roger Hargeaves
- 8.3 Treasurer and Membership secretary: Steve Robertson QO. Proposed by Helen Kelsey, seconded by Arthur Vince
- 8.5 Fixtures Secretary: Rob Mills WIM. Proposed by Steve Robertson, seconded by Julie Astin.

In the absence of other nominations, the above were elected.

9 Election of Committee

All of the following had previously said that they would be willing to serve on the committee: Arthur Vince KERNO; Pete Maliphant BOK; Julie Astin WSX; Neil Fraser NWO and Kevin Pickering WIM All five were proposed by Helen Kelsey, seconded by Dick Keighley. In the absence of other nominations, all five were duly elected.

10 Any other business

Helen Kelsey noted that the next SWOA committee meeting will be on Tuesday 19th November 2024 at 8pm (using Zoom)

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Minutes recorded by Helen Kelsey.

These minutes are issued subject to formal approval at the 2025 AGM.

Appendices:

- 1 Chairman's Report
- 2 Fixtures Secretary's report
- 3 SW Junior Squad Manager's report
- 4 Recorder of Controllers' report
- 5 Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report

Appendix 1 **2024 SWOA AGM – chairman's report**

A warm welcome to everyone.

Thank you to all the SW clubs who put on events in support of Regional and National Championships:
WIM for the CompassSport Cup and Trophy qualifying round, 2024

DEVON for the Caddihoe which they will host forthwith (the Tamar Triple now being in abeyance).

NGOC for the Veteran Home Internationals, held in September-October 2023

BOK for the CompassSport Cup and Trophy Final held in November 2023

BOK for the Yvette Baker qualifiers 2024

NGOC and BOK for the Junior Inter Regionals 2024

BOK for the SWOA Sprint Championships 2024

Also – WIM for the British Schools Score Championships which was cancelled due to lack of entries.

In 2024/25:

SARUM will be hosting the Southern Championships 2025

QO will be hosting the CompassSport Cup and Trophy qualifying round, 2025

Courses held in the last year:

Organisers and Planners course organised by BOK, which was well attended; a number of attendees are now helping their clubs. SARUM, DEVON and BOK all held First Aid courses.

Courses planned/proposed for the forthcoming year:

BOK and NGOC have arranged a Coaching Course (already full).

Clubs are reminded that all event officials (organiser, planner, controller) now need to have attended an Event Safety Workshop (as of 01 January 2017). SWOA will pay for and organise more Event Safety workshops (via the clubs) for as long as is needed.

Thanks to Nath Fernandes for keeping our website up to date.

Thanks to Spencer Modica DEVON for his hard work scoring the Galoppen series – now the SW Regional League.

My thanks to Helen Kelsey for her work as SWOA Secretary, to Richard Sansbury as our Fixtures Secretary and Steve Robertson as our Treasurer.

Also to Peter Maliphant and all those who keep our Junior Squad working so hard. Please see Pete's report for details of their successes.

We have sadly lost several members in the past year. We heard yesterday that John Lewis (Avon Schools) has also died.

Finally, the Association rarely makes any award except to Regional Championship and SW League winners. The only person currently to have Honorary Life Membership is Emily Benham Kvale, who was awarded this when she won her first World Championship. This year two long-serving members of the SWOA committee are standing down. Dick Keighley has worked for SWOA and WIM for at least 45 years, and has represented Great Britain in international Trail-O competitions. Richard Sansbury took over as Fixtures Secretary in 2011 and has done a first-class job (he works much harder than the chairman, let me tell you).

The chairman has proposed, and the committee accepted, that we award Honorary Life Membership to Dick

and Richard in recognition of their contribution to the Association.

Christine Vince, chairman 2023-2024

Appendix 2 **Fixtures Secretary's Report for 2024 AGM**

My role as SWOA fixtures secretary is threefold:

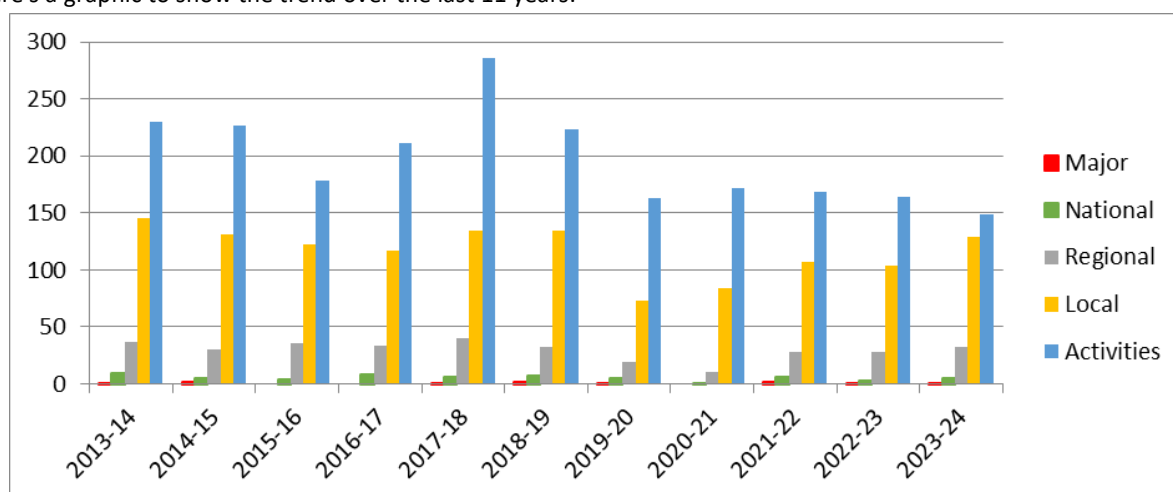
- (1) I work with club fixtures secretaries to produce an orderly programme of orienteering across the region,
- (2) I assign major competitions that come to our region,
- (3) I represent SWOA on the national Event Scheduling Group.

Numbers of events and activities

Here are the numbers of events and activities for the year from 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024,

Club	Number of events and activities					
	Major	National	Regional	Local	Activities	Total
BOK	1	0	4	24	59	88
DEVON	0	0	7	9	9	25
KERNO	0	0	5	5	0	10
NGOC	0	4	5	27	1	37
NWO	0	0	2	18	0	20
QO	0	0	3	23	18	44
SARUM	0	0	2	3	6	11
WIM	0	1	1	8	3	13
WSX	0	0	3	12	53	68
TOTAL	1	5	32	129	149	316

Here's a graphic to show the trend over the last 11 years:



In last year's AGM report I reported the total number of events and activities to be about 75% of pre-pandemic levels, and this year has confirmed that pattern. Land access remains a challenge, and I believe this is the reason for that fall. Note there is a recent shift from activities to local events, this is due to some sessions being classified as events rather than activities. We haven't changed what we do, but we have changed how we label our sessions.

As I say every year having over 300 events and activities per year reflects a phenomenal effort by large numbers of organisers, mappers, planners and controllers. My thanks to all those giving up their time to support activities and events at all levels.

Large events

As one of the better resourced Associations we carry slightly more than a fair share of major events. At the end of last September NGOC not only held the Caddihoe, but also the Veteran Home Internationals in parallel. That's four National status events in just one weekend. Last November BOK hosted the Compass Sport Cup final in the Forest of Dean with over 800 attending from all over the country. Last month DEVON held a well-attended Caddihoe on Braunton Burrows, BOK and NGOC jointly held a very successful Junior Inter-Regional Championships. Only a week ago WIM should have been holding the British School Score Championships but unfortunately this was cancelled by the British Schools Orienteering Association due to a lack of entries. I was very grateful to WIM for generously coming forward to support this struggling fixture, and the cancellation is very disappointing.

In the next 12 months Sarum provides most of our contribution to the national scene, as the Salisbury City Race is part of the UK Orienteering League as is the Sarum Saunter which is also being the Southern Championships. Further ahead we have the British Sprints and Sprint Relays in summer 2026 which we have started to plan for. We will have the Southern Championships again in 2027 and we might also have the British Middle Distance Championships, (that's a very recent development to be confirmed). Then in 2028 it will be our turn to host the JK.

... and finally

This is my last report as Association Fixtures Secretary as I am stepping down to concentrate on other roles. I have enjoyed doing the job for the last 13 years and am only reluctantly giving it up. I am very grateful to all I have worked with, you have been overwhelmingly positive despite the various difficulties faced, and I have felt well supported in undertaking this role. Thank you all.

Richard Sansbury
October 2024

Appendix 3

SWJOS Review of 2023-24

The South-West Junior Squad provides a focus and a series of training activities for developing junior talent within the South-West. Athletes from BOK, Devon, NGOC, QO, Sarum, Wessex and Wimborne made up the 2023-24 squad. SWJOS has had another good year, with 25 active and many more prospective members. We are one of the four largest regional squads and currently have four ex-SWJOS members in the various GB squads.

Squad Training

Normally training takes place during September-March aimed at achieving peak performances in the main Championships and selection races in March, April and May. This year we have provided eight training days/weekends, despite Forestry England access and costs remaining difficult.

Our Zoom meetings have continued, but on a less frequent basis and we will carry on using them to meet, brief and review races with our geographically scattered squad.

Achievements

SWJOS finished 3rd behind Scotland and Yorkshire at the 2023 Junior Inter-Regional Champs. We repeated this a couple of weeks ago again at our home JIRCs 2024, winning the Boys relay in front of a home crowd.

There have been numerous SW selections for summer camps and international races this year:

Lagganlia 14s:	Finley Goddard QO, Hannah Agombar NGOC, Isabelle Tonge BOK
Deeside 15s:	Eskarina Medlock WSX, Marcus Perry BOK, James Agombar NGOC
Czech 16s:	Vince Nagy-Kovacs
Stockholm 17s:	Lyra Medlock WSX, Grace French WIM, Harry Bratcher-Howard WIM
	Ben Perry DEVON
Gothenburg 18s:	Jessica Ward NGOC

Marcus Perry was selected for the European Youth Champs GB team, whilst Finley Goddard, Vince Nagy-Kovacs, Lyra Medlock, Marcus Perry, Alice French and Ben Perry were all selected for the England team for one or both of the Interland and the Junior Home Internationals. Jess Ward was selected for the Welsh team.

The Talent South 2023/24 squad contained 7 South West athletes in the squad of 17 and we have 8 representatives in the 2024-25 squad to be announced soon.

However, SWJOS is not just about achievements at a national level and we welcome anyone who wants to travel widely to train and race, improve their skills and have fun as part of a close-knit team of orienteers. It is especially pleasing to see some Kernow juniors looking to join SWJOS for the first time in many years.

Thanks are owed to all the parents who help and support SWJOS at each training day and to Dave Hanstock, Jim Hayward and Jeff Butt for all their coaching work. The continued support from SWOA for the squad and for individuals within SWJOS is also greatly appreciated.

SWJOS provides development opportunities for junior athletes who are usually bottom year M/W14 or older, willing to and able to travel widely for their orienteering and keen to progress beyond Light Green courses, club and local races, to compete in major races nationally and progress towards the British Orienteering Talent Development Programme.

If you have anyone in your club who would like to find out more, please take a look at www.swjs.co.uk/about.html or contact any of the SWJOS families, Dave Hanstock (BOK) or me.

Peter Maliphant
BOK & SWJOS Coach

Appendix 4 SWOA AGM 2024

RECORDER OF CONTROLLERS' REPORT

RECORDER'S JOB DESCRIPTION

This can be found on the SWOA website in the *SWOA Specific Documents* section.

TRAINING COURSES

I held a Grade C course in November 2023; The sole person attending was Adrian Taylor of DEVON. In a departure from previous practice, the terrain exercise was set up so that participants could do it when it suited them; this made both that and the indoor session far less hurried.

CONTROLLERS in the SW

SWOA clubs have 62 currently licenced controllers: 3 at Grade A, 18 at Grade B and 41 at Grade C. An up-to-date list of controllers can be found on the SWOA website in the *Newsletter and Documents/Controllers* section. This list is updated as new appointments are made or people retire from controlling. The current one must always be consulted when clubs want to find a controller.

CHANGES Since the 2023 AGM.

GRADE B John Shucksmith and John Warren, both of WIM, have retired from controlling.

GRADE C New appointment: Adrian Taylor of DEVON.
Emigrant: Phil Newall, formerly of KERNO, has moved to Cumbria and is now a member of West Cumberland OC.
Changed club: Carol Iddles to RAFO from BOK
Retired: Phil Warry, BOK

CLUB	Number of licenced controllers in club			
	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Total
BOK	3	4**	4*	11
DEVON	None	1	7	8
KERNO	None	3	8	11
NGOC	None	3	7	10
NWO	None	None	3	3
QO	None	2	4	6
RAFO	None	None	1	1
SARUM	None	1*	2*	3
WIM	None	1	4	5
WSX	None	3	1	4
Total	3	18	41	62

Two licensed by WOA * One licensed by SCOA * One licensed by SEOA

APPOINTMENT OF CONTROLLERS

Clubs and individuals are reminded that in order to become a licensed controller, or move from Grade C to Grade B, as well as completing the necessary training course and fulfilling the other BOF requirements it is necessary to be approved by both their club and SWOA. Application forms are available from me. Grade A controllers are appointed by the BOF Events and Competitions Committee.

Those retiring from controlling, for whatever reason, should tell me as well as BOF Office, so that I can keep the SWOA list up-to-date.

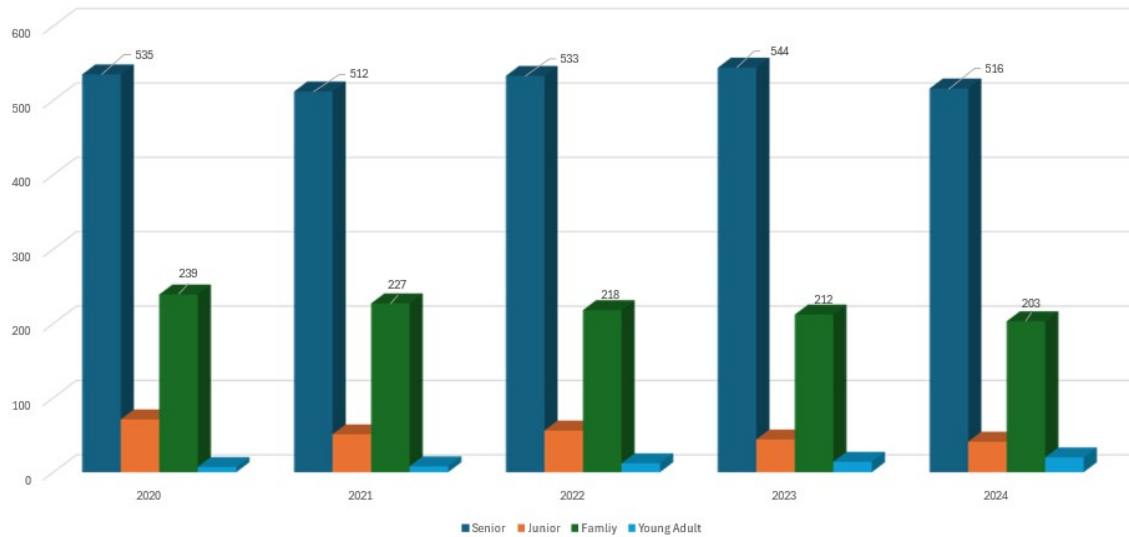
Arthur Vince, KERNO 15th October 2024

Appendix 5

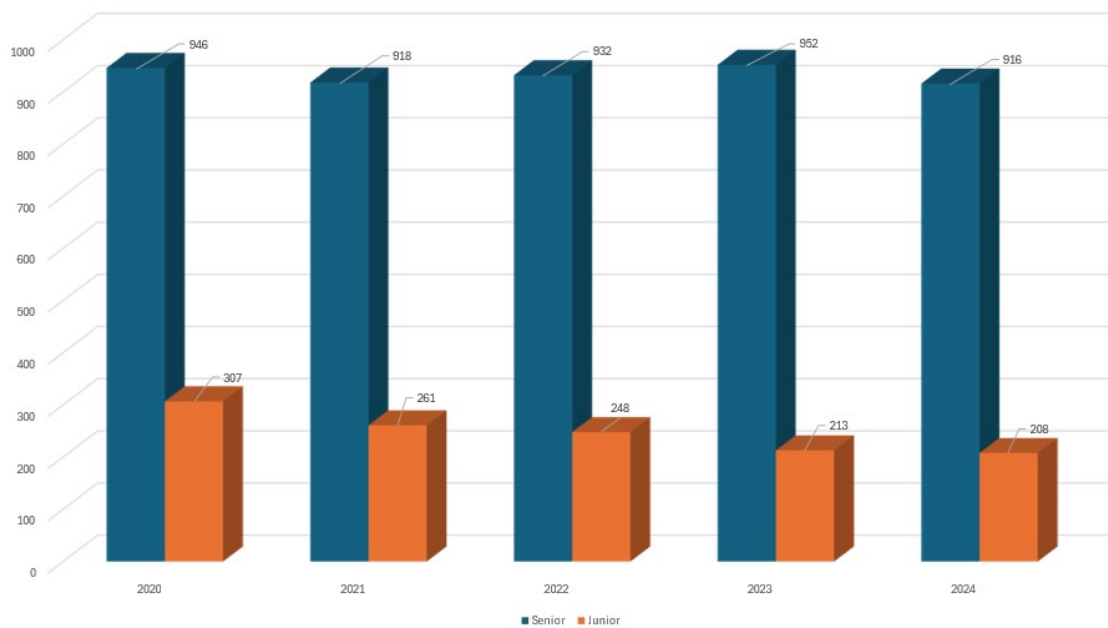
Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Report

Appendix 5a Membership

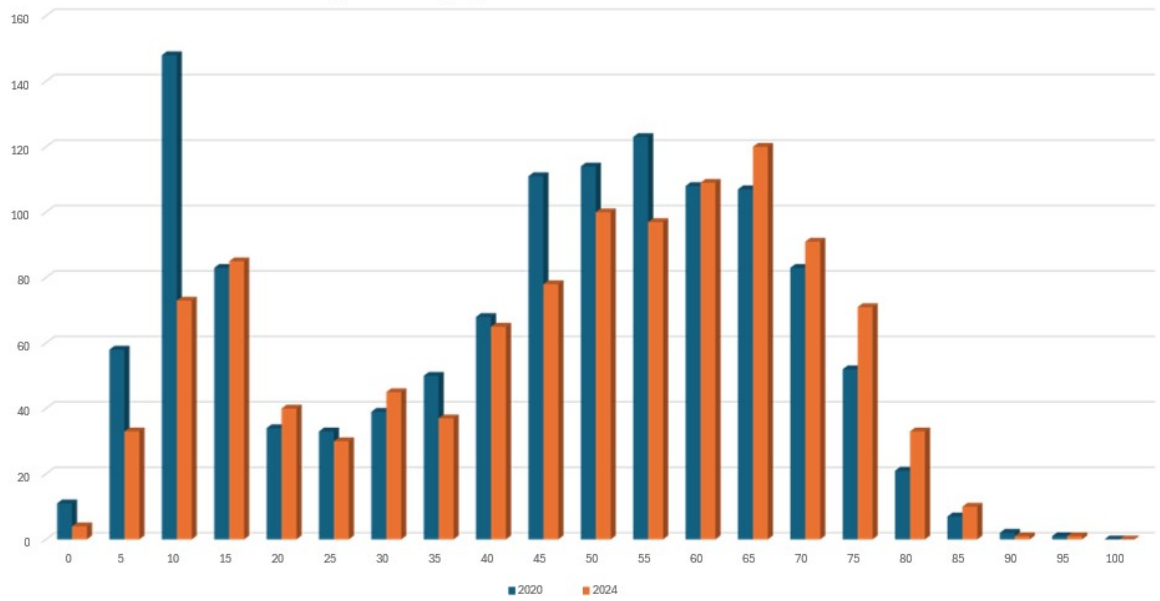
SWOA Membership Units



SWOA Membership - Senior & Junior

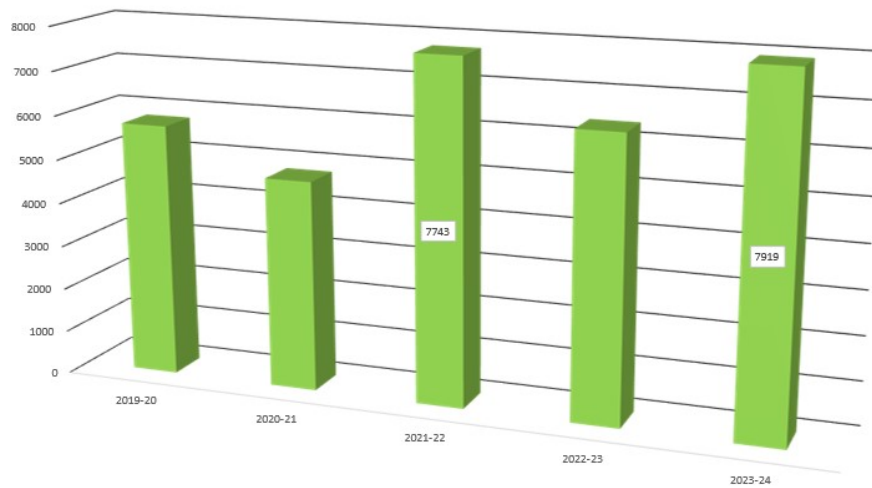


SWOA Age Demographic – 2019-20 versus 2023-24

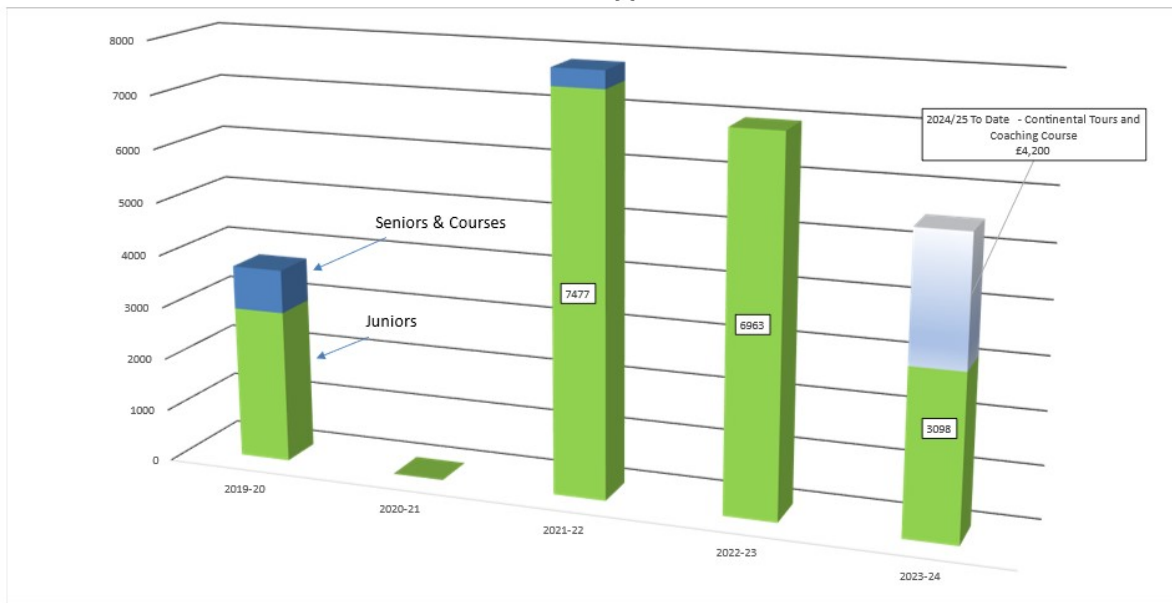


Appendix 5b 5-year Financial Summary

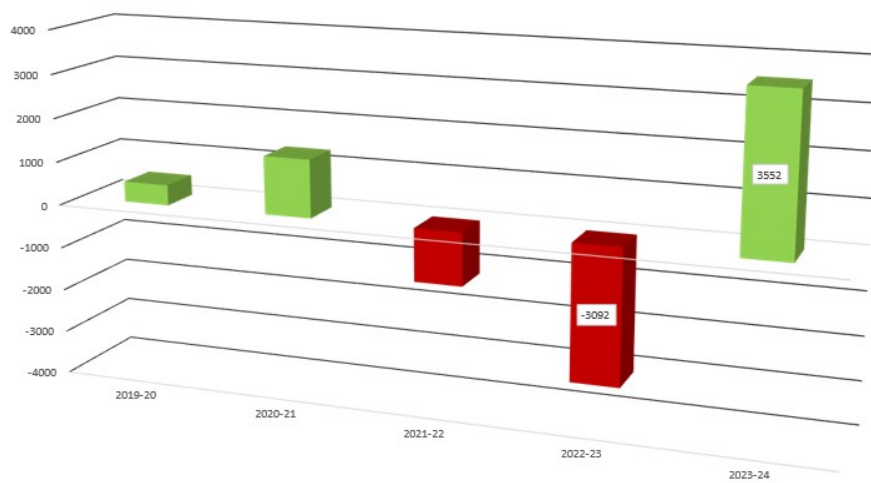
SWOA Levy Income



SWOA Grant Approvals



Annual Surplus/Deficit



SWOA Year End Funds

