

SOUTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 28th July 2026

PRESENT:

Christine Vince Kerno (chairman); Helen Kelsey BOK (secretary); Rob Mills WIM (fixtures); Arthur Vince Kerno (cttee); Kevin Pickering WIM (cttee); Pete Maliphant BOK (cttee and SWJOS); Neil Fraser NWO;(cttee); Roger Hargreaves Kerno; Ian Jones NGOC; Richard Hudson BOK.

1. Apologies.
Steve Robertson QO (treasurer); Julie Astin WSX (cttee); Liz Yeadon SARUM;
2. Chairman's update. Unfortunately no-one from the committee had been able to attend the funeral of Mike Crockett of QO.
Christine has had communication with Rob Woods of BOF looking at ways that JK 2028 could be held in SW , suggesting that JK2021 could be resurrected (cancelled due to Covid) but actually SW was already losing Hayle Towans and there has been no orienteering there since. Various other possibilities discussed see *Appendix 1*
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting.
Approved
4. Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.
None.
5. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report.
Since the last meeting the committee agreed by email to the increased payment to EOC and the usual £1000 grant to the SWJOS
6. Fixtures report.

Latest fixtures bulletin has just gone out

All events for SWOL in 2026-27 season have now been finalised, with a big thank you to all the clubs who have put in a lot of work getting this sorted out.

We will have a full suite of SW championship events this year (long distance being in October at Devon's Caddihoe weekend)

We are now looking for offers for the long, middle and sprint championships in 2027

WSX has offered to host the CompassSport cup qualifying round in 2027 and we are now looking for another club to step up for 2028

Any events in first half of 2028 which clubs may wish to be at level B need to be notified to Rob prior to ESG Meeting in October please.

Big thank you to BOK for hosting the British Sprint and Sprint Relay Championships which were a great success. Richard Hudson thanked all the other clubs whose members helped with the event, it was very much appreciated.

The committee formally thanked all clubs for putting on events throughout the year and for stepping up whenever help was needed.

There was some discussion about the problems with JK2028 (see appendix 1). Whatever happens in place of the proposed SW event, all SW clubs will be willing to offer help.

Kevin noted that the board is investigating possible ways of continuing the CompassSport Cup.

6 SWJOS Report

The SWJOS has been obliged to do a major review of everything related to safeguarding. This is being completed as pragmatically as possible to satisfy the requirements whilst causing as little extra burden as possible. SWJOS now has a policy document mainly about vetting parents, collecting details of qualifications, DBS checks etc and this will be rolled out in the next few months. Pete assured the committee that there had been no safeguarding issues in the SW and this initiative was as a result of an issue in another part of the country.

The new season is now planned. The concern at the moment is that there is no pyramid of juniors, with very few younger ones coming in at the moment. SWJOS ran training alongside the BOK Adams Avery relays. It was a successful day, which has produced at least two new members of SWJOS”.

Pete informed the committee that the coming weekend was the European Trail O championships and that two SWJOS members Tom and Jack Wright of KERNO have been selected.

Christine queried whether the recent wildfires in Scotland would affect the running of the Lagganlia summer training camp and it was thought that it may well have knocked out some of the areas, but the training camp is to go ahead as planned.

7 Recorder of Controller’s Report

Nothing to report

8 AOB.

Arthur reported that no one had come forward to take responsibility for the SWOL trophies and therefore we needed to find somewhere to store them. Several members of the committee suggested that maybe it would be better to award the trophies and leave them with the winner for this season, rather than just storing them all somewhere. Arthur noted that one of the trophies still hasn’t been returned. It was left that he would think about the logistics of this suggestion.

The date of the AGM was agreed as Tuesday 6th October.

10. Club reps report to clubs.

- The SWOA AGM will be held on Tuesday 6th October at 8pm using Zoom. Any proposed changes to the constitution will need to be with the secretary 8 weeks before that. Anyone wishing to stand for the committee should notify the secretary in writing before the meeting if they are not able to attend in person.
- The Secretary will be standing down at the AGM, so a new secretary is urgently sought.

11. Date of next meeting. Tuesday 22nd September.

Appendix 1

Report on JK2028 to SWOA meeting, 26-07-28

Rob Woods sent an email on 12th June, having discussed this at the recent Board meeting (Alison being vice-chair).

“Following a recent Board discussion, Alison and I felt it would be really helpful to reconnect with you to take stock of where things currently stand regarding JK 2028 and SWOA’s position.

We fully recognise the scale of what’s being asked, particularly in light of the challenges you’ve already identified to Peter, Andy, Pauline and other members of the JK sub-group. Equally, we haven’t forgotten the huge amount of work and commitment SWOA put into planning for JK2021 before Covid intervened, nor the fact that you have several significant Regional events on the planner over the next 12-18 months.

With all of that in mind, we’d really value the opportunity to explore - without any commitment - whether there are ways in which British Orienteering might be able to “move the dial” on expectations or event criteria. In particular, whether there is scope to simplify aspects of delivery to make hosting more achievable for SWOA, if that remains of interest.

Alongside this, we are continuing to explore alternative options to ensure delivery of JK2028, so we are keeping all avenues open while we work through what might be possible.”

I sent this reply on 15th June:

Re: “move the dial” or “simplify aspects of delivery” would change the characteristics that make the JK the way it is; i.e. it wouldn’t be a JK.

SWOA no longer has the areas available that would or could have been used previously. The Cornish sand-dunes have either been built on, or have had permissions refused; the forests are not large enough; the moorland (such as Davidstow) is relatively flat and would result in an elite cross-country race. The Devon sand-dunes (Braunton) have parking issues, as does the forest (Cookworthy). Going east, there are no suitable large areas. We would usually expect 3000 competitors plus families. (We do have several Sprint areas.)

We do not have many large areas of firm ground or hardstanding for parking. Once off the main roads, the lanes are narrow; bussing would be difficult or impossible, especially with Easter traffic (the SW is a major tourist area).

The Forest of Dean is a serious contender but permission has already been refused for Easter.

The last successful SWOA JK was in 2010; we used Cookworthy (with parking on forest roads, no longer permitted) for the Middle race, and Braunton Burrows (with field parking, we hired a field from the farmer and prayed for a dry Spring) for the Long race and the Relays. That was a roaring success and more than covered its costs. We had a full team to organise that event.

For JK2021, we were not at full speed when Covid struck in 2020. With hindsight, I think we would have met some serious obstacles. The Middle race was planned for Hayle Towans sand-dunes, but the local preservation group were already raising objections to its use; the

reserve area was Davidstow moor. The Long race / Relays was planned for Penhale sand-dunes (which has now been partly built on) using bussing from a local field, which should have been OK.

The team that organised JK2021 is no longer available; we're all older, with health issues for ourselves and families. The next generation is still young, with jobs and families, but no time to commit to a JK.

Prior to the Zoom call, I sent the following report:

JK2028 – Prospects for a future JK, 22-06-2026

1. The JK has had its time, and is no longer attainable in the current economic climate.
It started as a one-day event in 1967; it commemorates the life of Jan Kjellstrom, a Swedish orienteer who introduced the sport into the UK (and sadly died when still a young man).
The JK currently consists of four days of racing, with up to 2700 competitors. The UK is running short of areas than can cope with those numbers (car parking is difficult; bussing is not always possible). Entry fees are rising towards £100 per senior, at a time when finances are forecast to become even tighter.
2. The British Championships (all disciplines) could adopt the name of JK.
3. A small number of suitable areas could host the JK and the event could be rotated.
In any case, it is no longer possible to ask every region to host it in turn; it nearly failed once before (when Mike Forrest and Charles Daniel of BOK took it on at 9 months' notice); SWOA cannot stage it in 2028; what about 2029?
4. The JK could revert to a two-day weekend event, possibly on a specific weekend.
How would this be different from other weekend events? There are already a number of these in the calendar. Would we continue to see the number of international competitors who attend the JK at present? Note that our Easter weekend is at the end of the Scandinavian winter, which is why we have so many Scandi entries.

This household has some history with the JK. My husband Arthur (M85) first went in 1972. When we met in 1999, I soon realised that my life too would be in orienteering. I was Entries Secretary for JK2010 (which grew into being joint Co-ordinator); it was the first year that SportIdent did the entries and results, and we both learnt on the-job. I took the entries for the next four years and, when SWOA got the JK in 2021, I and Roger Hargreaves KERNO were joint Co-ordinators (but Covid put paid to that).

Christine Vince KERNO