

SOUTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

SECRETARY: Helen Kelsey
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MINUTES OF 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held online using Zoom on Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 20.00

Those present:

Officers: Christine Vince Kerno, (Chairman); Helen Kelsey BOK, (Secretary); Steve Robertson QO, (Treasurer and Membership Secretary); Rob Mills WIM, (Fixtures Secretary).

Committee: Pete Maliphant BOK; Neil Fraser NOW; Arthur Vince Kerno; Kevin Pickering WIM.

SW members: Richard Hudson BOK; Roger Hargreaves Kerno; Richard Sansbury QO; Liz Yeadon SARUM; Dick Keighley WIM; Tom Alcock WIM

1 Apologies

Julie Astin WSX

2 Approval of Minutes of 2025 AGM

It was noted that item 6 should read: Determination of Membership fees for 2026 (not 2024). With this amendment the minutes were approved by the meeting.

3 Matters arising from those minutes.

No matters arising not addressed elsewhere.

4 Reports:

4.1 Chairman's report.

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

4.2 Fixtures Secretary's report. Rob Mills.

Fixtures Secretary's report [\[Appendix 2\]](#). No questions

4.3 SW Junior Squad Manager's report. Pete Maliphant.

SWJOS Report [\[Appendix 3\]](#).

Pete added to the report that in the recent JIRCs in Essex, notable contributions from Eli Brown M10 who ran light green and at the other end of the age range James Agombar who returned from university to put in two very good runs for the squad. The last minute loss of one of the two W14s left the squad at a considerable disadvantage and so did well to come 5th.

The SW league results show very few juniors competing in our region, whereas 10 years ago there were 90 juniors competing over the season. SWJOS is now working with some M/W12 level juniors who are currently too inexperienced to join the squad, getting them to join in the training events to help them get up to the required standard. Some will be attending the next training session at Shotover. The squad is now migrating towards a slightly different way of working, which relieves the load from Pete and Dave Hanstock. There now 5 active adult coaches and several of the recent graduates from the squad are now coach trained and are actively taking the role.

4.4 Recorder of Controllers' report. Arthur Vince.

Recorder of Controller's report [\[Appendix 4\]](#) no questions

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

The Membership and Financial reports were illustrated by a series of slides

Steve Robertson presented the membership data which clearly shows that whilst membership overall has decreased by about 3%, junior membership has decreased by 6% from last year, which is a major factor in the reduced numbers for

SWJOS.

Looking at the age profile along with the decline in junior age category, there has been a noticeable decline in membership of middle ages (30 to 70) over the last few years.

The financial status of the association [\[Appendix 5\]](#)

Mike Forrest BOK has audited the accounts

Steve Robertson was thanked for his accounting.

6 Determination of Membership fees for 2027

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

8 Election of officers

8.1 Chairman: Christine Vince Kerno. Proposed by Rob Mills, seconded by Roger Hargreaves

8.2 Administrative Secretary: Roger Hargreaves Kerno Proposed by Christine Vince, seconded by Helen Kelsey

8.3 Treasurer and Membership secretary: Steve Robertson QO. Proposed by Christine Vince, seconded by Roger Hargreaves

8.5 Fixtures Secretary: Rob Mills WIM. Proposed by Christine Vince, seconded by Liz Yeadon.

In the absence of other nominations, the above were duly 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 Roger Hargreaves. In the absence of other nominations, all five were duly elected.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.51pm.

Minutes recorded by Helen Kelsey.

These minutes are issued subject to formal approval at the 2027 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

2026 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:

BOK for hosting the British Sprint and British Sprint Relay Championships in June 2026

BOK for the SWOA Long Distance Championships in October 2026

BOK for the SWOA Middle distance Championships in May 2026

WSX for the SWOA Sprint Championships in June 2026

WIM for the CompassSport Cup and Trophy qualifying round in February 2026

KERNO for the Yvette Baker qualifiers in April 2026

DEVON as always for hosting the Caddihoe each year

In 2026/27:

QO will be hosting the Southern Championships in April 2027

WSX will be hosting the Southern Night Championships in December 2026

WSX will be hosting the CompassSport Cup and Trophy qualifying round in February 2027

Courses held in the last year:

None.

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 SW Regional League (formerly the Galoppen).

My thanks to Helen Kelsey who has been a willing and able SWOA Secretary since the 2019 AGM; to Rob Mills 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.

Sad to say that Mike Crockett QO, Peter Brett WIM and Carol Stewart NGOC died this year.

Christine Vince, chairman 2025-2026

Appendix 2

Fixtures Secretary's Report for 2026 AGM

My role as SWOA fixtures secretary is threefold:

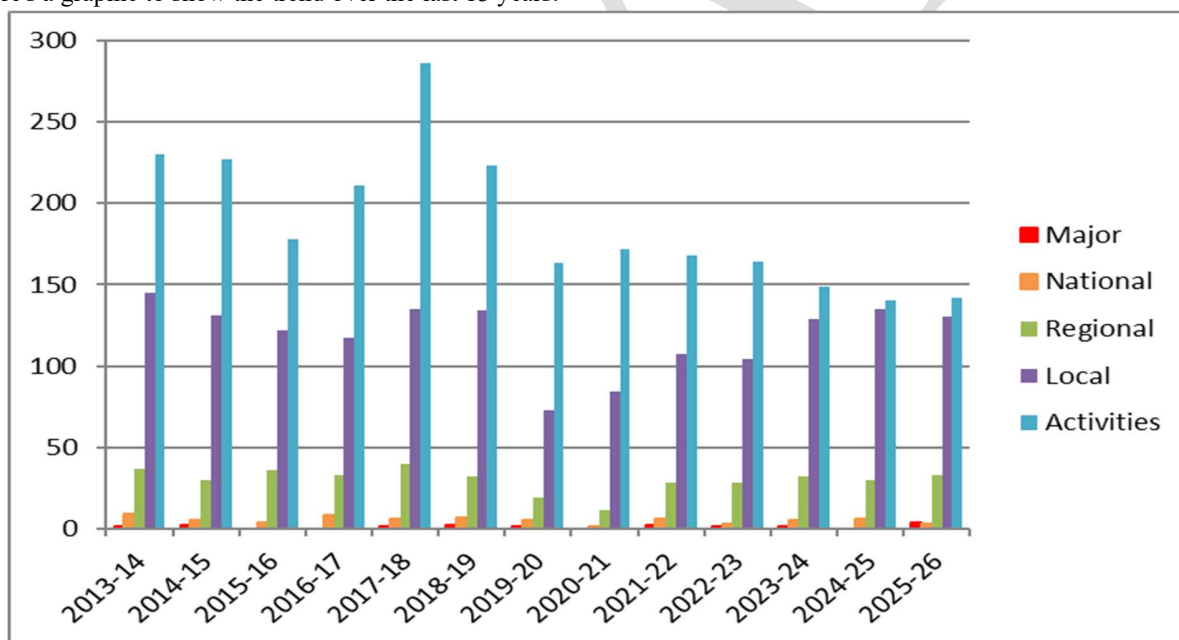
- (1) I work with club fixtures secretaries to produce an orderly programme of orienteering across the region,
- (2) I assign major competitions that come to our region,
- (3) I represent SWOA on the national Event Scheduling Group.

Numbers of events and activities

Here are the numbers of events and activities for the year from 1st September 2025 to 31st August 2026,

Club	Number of events and activities					
	Major	National	Regional	Local	Activities	Total
BOK	4	0	2	25	57	88
DEVON	0	1	7	10	21	39
KERNO	0	0	4	3	0	7
NGOC	0	0	7	29	0	36
NWO	0	0	2	17	5	24
QO	0	0	3	23	0	26
SARUM	0	1	2	2	4	9
WIM	0	1	2	10	3	16
WSX	0	0	4	11	53	67
TOTAL	4	3	33	130	142	312

Here's a graphic to show the trend over the last 13 years:



In recent AGM reports, it was reported the total number of events and activities to be about 75% of pre-pandemic levels, and this year has again confirmed that pattern with the overall total number of events and activities this year remaining very much in line with that of last year. Land access/permissions remains a challenge as does securing adequate & suitable car parking and increasing, sourcing of event officials. As has been noted previously, 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. SWOA hosting over 300 events and activities per year reflects a phenomenal effort by large numbers of mappers, planners, organisers and controllers. To put this in context, SWOA put on the third highest number of events and activities among the twelve associations in 2025/2026, only being surpassed by Scotland and the North

West. My sincere thanks go to all those giving up their time to support events and activities at all levels.

Large events

As one of the better resourced Associations we carry slightly more than a fair share of major events although this is becoming increasingly challenging due to access/permissions and associated constraints. In the last 12 months BOK hosted the British Sprints and British Sprint Relays at the University of the West of England and the University of Bristol and at National level, SARUM hosted the Sarum Saunter at Fonthill. DEVON hosted Caddihoe Chase at Holne Moor and WIM hosted the SW CompassSport Cup qualifier at Clouds Hill.

In the next 12 months, DEVON will host their Caddihoe Chase event next month at Hound Tor and Haytor, WSX will hold the Southern Night Champs in December on Studland Dunes as well as hosting the SW CompassSport qualifier in February at Agglestone and QO will host the Southern Championships weekend in April at Taunton and Braunton Burrows.

Unfortunately, SWOA has had to revert to BO to decline JK 2028 after finding, following significant internal discussions, that there were no viable options for hosting the event in the region - WMOA will now be hosting in 2028. However, the SWOA Committee has recently agreed to form a working committee to examine, over the next year, the potential for SWOA hosting JK 2032.

... and finally

I would just like to pass on my thanks to all the club fixture secretaries for all their time, effort and support to myself – it is very much appreciated!

Rob Mills

Appendix 3

SWJOS Review of 2025-26

The South-West Junior Squad provides a focus and a series of training activities for developing junior talent within the South-West. We are one of the four largest regional squads and SWJOS has had another good year, with about 30 active members. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find new members – the pyramid of junior orienteers in the South-West below our regional squad is tiny and shrinking.

Squad Training

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, including a residential camp in South-East England. We continue to use Zoom meetings as a way for our geographically scattered squad to meet, brief and review races.

Achievements

SWJOS finished 3rd behind Scotland and Yorkshire at the 2025 Junior Inter-Regional Champs in the Lake District. This was an excellent result, beating the North-West on their home terrain. We were fifth a few weeks ago at the 2026 JIRCs in East Anglia, where we were only able to field a single W14, which dropped us behind the NW and SE squads for the first time in several years.

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

Lagganlia 14s: Evie Brown BOK

Deeside 15s: Ceci Knight KERNO, Alice French WIM, Daniel Wareing BOK

Czech 16s: Finley Goddard QO, Hannah Agombar NGOC

Stockholm 17s: Marcus Perry BOK, Esk Medlock WSX

Göteborg 18s: Vince Nagy-Kovacs, James Agombar NGOC

In 2026, Lyra Medlock WSX was selected for the Junior World Orienteering Champs team, Finley and Marcus were selected for the European Youth Champs GB team and Marcus for Junior European Cup as well. Evie, Alice, Ceci, Finley, Isabelle Tonge and James Agombar were all selected for the England team for Interland. The 2026 Talent South squad contained 7 South West athletes in the squad of 16 and the 2027 squad will be announced any day.

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.

Thanks to all the parents who help and support SWJOS at each training day and Dave Hanstock, James Askew, Jim Hayward 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 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), James Askew (NGOC) or me.

Peter Maliphant
BOK & SWJOS Coach

Appendix 4 SWOA AGM 2026

RECORDER OF CONTROLLERS' REPORT

RECORDER'S JOB DESCRIPTION

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

TRAINING COURSES

No training courses have been held since the 2025 AGM. Those wanting a Grade C or B course should contact me.

CONTROLLERS in the SW

SWOA clubs have 61 currently licenced working controllers: 3 at Grade A, 17 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 2025 AGM.

GRADE B Arthur Vince, KERNO has retired from controlling

GRADE C New appointment: Andy Stott of NGOC

CLUB	Number of licenced controllers in club			
	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Total
BOK	3	4**	3*	10
DEVON	None	1	7	8
KERNO	None	3	9	12
NGOC	None	2	7	9
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	17	41	61

** Two licensed by WOA * One licensed by SGOA *** One licensed by SGOA

APPOINTMENT OF CONTROLLERS

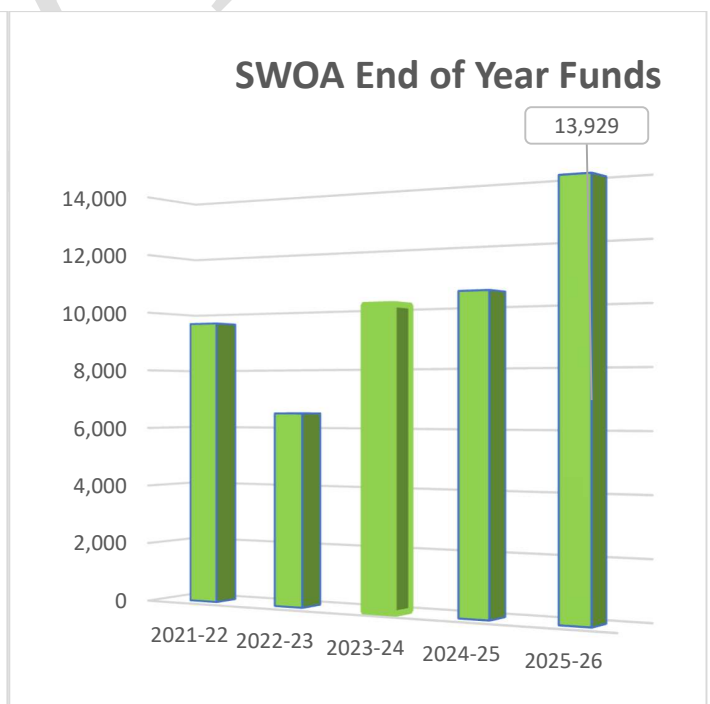
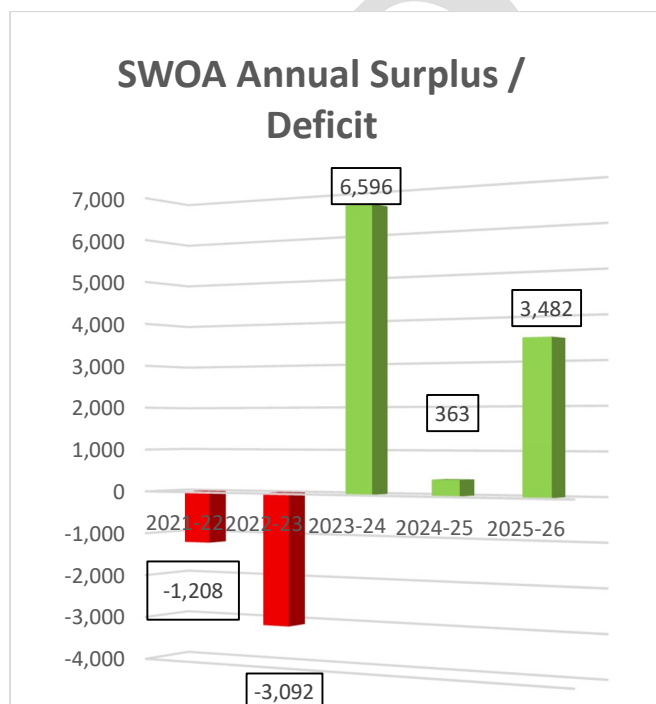
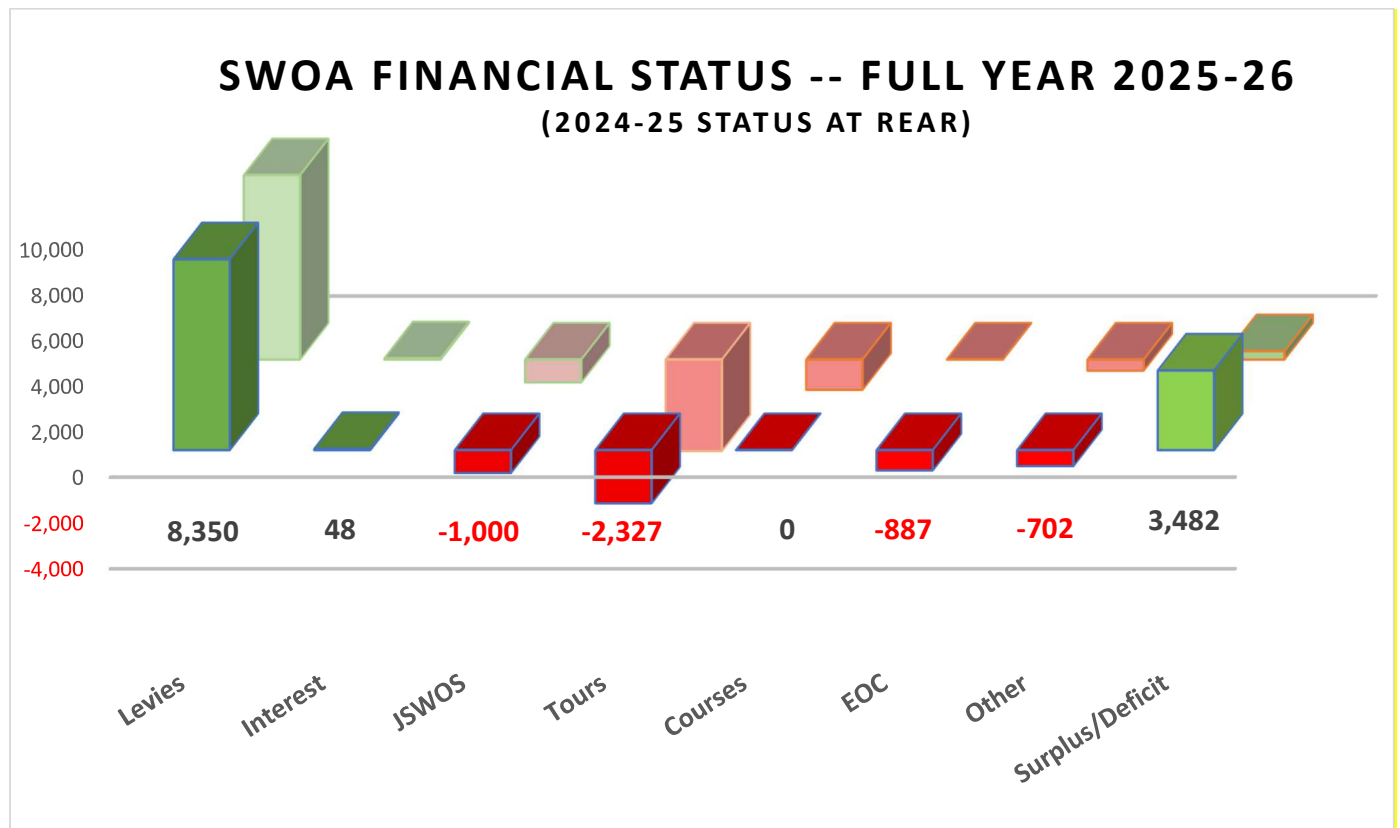
Clubs and individuals are reminded that in order to become a licensed controller, or move from Grade C to Grade B, as well as completing the mandatory training course and fulfilling the other BOF requirements it is necessary to be approved by both their club and the SWOA committee. Application forms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

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

Arthur Vince, KERNO 3rd October 2026

Appendix 5

Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Report



<u>ACCOUNT DETAIL</u>			<u>Income/Expenditure</u> <u>Detail</u>	<u>Summary</u> <u>Level</u>
<u>INCOME</u>				
Levies	BOK		£ 2,797.06	
	DEVON		982.91	
	KERNO		210.91	
	NGOC		1,686.24	
	N WO		445.74	
	QO		447.35	
	SARUM		466.90	
	WIM		719.90	
	WSX		593.17	
	Other		<u>0.00</u>	
			£ 8,350.18	8,350.18
Other Income	Interest		£ <u>48.13</u>	48.13
Total			£ 8,398.31	8,398.31
<u>EXPENSE</u>				
Grants	Junior Squad Representation	Junior	£ (1,000.00)	
		Senior	(300.00)	
			0.00	
	Tours/Training	Junior	(2,027.00)	
		Senior	0.00	(3,327.00)
Courses	Individuals		0.00	
	Clubs		0.00	
	Other		0.00	0.00
English OC			(887.00)	(887.00)
Website			(375.40)	
Expenses	Committee		(39.92)	
	Competition		(286.81)	(702.13)
Misc.			<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total			£ (4,916.13)	(4,916.13)
<u>SUMMARY</u>			<u>Income/Expenditure</u>	
	Levies		£ 8,350.18	
	Grants		(3,327.00)	
	Courses		0.00	
	English OC		(887.00)	
	Other Income / Misc.		(654.00)	
	Total		£ 3,482.18	

CASH BALANCES

		Current	Deposit		
		Account	Account	Total	
Opening Balances		5,335.48	5,111.81	£	10,447.29
Transfers	Deposit	0.00	0.00		0.00
	Current	0.00	0.00		0.00
Transacts	Credit	8,350.18	48.13		8,398.31
	Debit	(4,916.13)	n/a		(4,916.13)
Closing Balances		8,769.53	5,159.94	£	13,929.47
Period Change		3,434.05	48.13	£	3,482.18

August 31, 2026

Comparison with 2024/5:

In 2025-26 we have a surplus of £3,482 compared with a surplus £363 in 2024/25.

For comparison purposes it is more realistic to compare with the average over the last 4 years of just over £100 surplus, effectively breakeven since the large swing during 2022-2024 calendar years was SWOA supporting the cashflow requirements of the Home Internationals in 2024.

Levies – despite concerns over permissions and membership, levy income has increased by £320 compared with 2024-25 to £8,350.

Grants – In the 2025 ‘O season’ the Southwest Junior squad continued to be very successful, gaining places on tours (12 individuals) and representing England/GB (8 instances).

Grant awards in 2025-26 are significantly lower compared with 2024-25 (£3,895).

This is due to several factors, no requests to support courses – down £1,325 - plus a number of grant requests were received early in 2025 calendar year and these payments fell into the 2024-25 financial year (£1,535).

In addition, grants to support representation were lower and an increasing minority of Juniors (parents) did not apply for financial support.

The Junior squad received a grant of £1,000 to support their activities, same as £2024-25.

English Orienteering Council (EOC) – the annual contribution to the EOC to support the Home Internationals and Interland was £891. This was higher than the previous year due to increased EOC costs and SWOA membership representing a higher proportion of BOF members compared to other regions. The 2024-25 cost was zero since both the 2023-24 and 2024-25 contributions fell in the 2024-25 financial year.

Admin/Other - Grants – primarily website maintenance and hosting £450 and competition trophy repair and engraving.

Outlook – SWOA funds continue to grow, and future outgoing appears to remain at a similar level. The Committee recommend that the event levies (Senior £0.69, Junior £0.23) remain unchanged for the 2027 calendar year.

Steve Robertson