

## Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting May 23rd 2011

**Present:** Pat McLeod, Dave Hartley, Roger Coe, Alan Brown, Pat Cameron, Carol Stewart, Paul Taunton, Caroline Craig, Greg Best, John Fallows, Gill James, Chris James, Caroline Gay.

1. **Apologies:** Ellen Starling

2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the 28th March meeting were accepted.

3. **Caroline Gay and her role as Participation Manager:**

**(a) Summary of role:** Caroline is Participation Manager for the West and works with SWOA and WMOA. Her main aim is to get more people into clubs, especially through club nights. She can help with many things, such as linking with our County Sports Partnership, who have an agreement to provide certain things (e.g. marketing and contacts) for us.

**(b) NGOC's development activities so far:** We tried holding club nights at Oxstalls (when we had a useful contact in the University) but struggled to get enough people. We also held monthly club nights last year, which were enjoyed, but few from outside the committee attended. Greg's Saturday events in Cheltenham and Gloucester this Spring have each attracted 20-30 people, with 50 attending the event at Crickley Hill (though not all newcomers). Kyla's events on Tuesdays in Herefordshire are also popular, attracting around 18 units. Kyla has been aiming at 5-7 year olds, coaching the parents while the children run around and have fun. The University has just been given a grant for a Sports Coordinator to encourage students to do more sport, so we hope to set something up with them later this year.

**(c) What next?**

- **Club nights:** British Orienteering are producing a "year in a box" which is a pack of 40 ideas for club night sessions. John observed that a club night needs both a good location (close to many members) and good facilities (to avoid it becoming repetitive). Since NGOC covers a large geographical area, finding one good location is difficult and although we could have a second venue, it would be difficult to get good numbers at two places. Caroline G said that often clubs stay in one location over the winter months, where a sports hall was available. She also suggested we consider bringing in someone from outside the sport as a Lead Coach for club nights, using funding from British Orienteering. An outdoor instructor may be interested in training to be an orienteering coach or a sports student at the University may be looking for coaching opportunities. Caroline G suggested that we could have a newcomers session and a regulars session, though we find it difficult to find newcomers without having a publicity officer. Caroline can however help with marketing as part of her role.
- **Hereford:** Caroline G suggested that we could employ Kyla as a Lead coach for newcomers' activities in Hereford. Pat M and Caroline G will talk to Kyla about possible follow-up activities from her current series.
- **Schools:** Dave asked whether anyone has been into primary schools to show them what orienteering is about, and whether we could get permission to. Caroline G had worked with some clubs in this way, but they had found it hard to get children out of school and into club activities. Pat M had experienced schools who viewed orienteering as a one-off event to tick the box in the curriculum. Therefore, in order to succeed, it would be important to have a good contact involved with sport in the school.

4. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** None

5. **Chairman's Report:**

**(a) Silva Award:** Pat expressed his gratitude for being nominated for a Silva award, though not successful this time.

**(b) JK and British Success:** Pat noted that several NGOC members had achieved very good results at this year's JK and British Champs and congratulated them.

6. **Secretary's report:** Nothing to add.

7. **Treasurer's report:**

**(a) Update to accounts:** Carol added that she'd written around £700 of cheques since the accounts in the Treasurer's report, but that still left over £8000 in the current account.

**(b) Levies:** Carol will check whether the numbers at Crickley Hill were sufficient for SWOA levies to apply.

8. **Membership Secretary's report:** No report at time of meeting. Report to follow.

9. **Events report:**

**(a) Fixtures for 2012-13:** Dave observed that some clubs already have events for the 2012-13 season in the British Orienteering Diary, but that our usual dates remained free. He suggested entering NGOC events for these dates now and it was agreed that he should do this.

**(b) Frequency of events:** Dave asked whether the committee were happy with the dates and frequency of events proposed for 2011-12. It was agreed that the schedule (one event every fortnight) was suitable and that we should aim to fill in the other weeks with something smaller. John suggested that it would be hard to get enough volunteers unless we reduce the work, e.g. by doing score events or having a sprint league. Pat M suggested doing “pop-up” (instant) events like the Army do, where the controls are put out just before the event (and moved if the control sites don’t look suitable) and the maps are only marked up afterwards.

**(c) Hartpury College event:** Bob Teed had mentioned to Pat M on several occasions that Hartpury College would support a good-sized event. Pat suggested holding a 2-day event (The Double Gloucester) with one day being a Sprint event at Hartpury and the second day possibly being the Galoppen. Dave will think whether this could fit in the schedule for Autumn 2012, or (as Roger suggested) for the Galoppen on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Pat C said that Neil would be keen to plan and suggested telling the students about it first (e.g. at the Freshers Fayre if we held the event in Autumn) since sports students especially could be keen.

**See also 10(b) regarding mapping Hartpury College.**

**(d) Summer Series:** The following organisers, dates and locations were agreed for the series of five Street ‘O’ events on Wednesday evenings in June and July:

- 29<sup>th</sup> June – location TBD – Caroline Craig
- 6<sup>th</sup> July – Oxstalls campus (OCAD map available) - Neil and Pat Cameron
- 13<sup>th</sup> July – Bishops Cleeve (old paper map available – John thinks he has an original) – Carol Stewart
- 20<sup>th</sup> July – South Cheltenham (old paper map available) - Sam Taunton
- 27<sup>th</sup> July – Tewkesbury (old paper map available) – John Fallows

Dave (and his Brockworth event) will be a reserve. John asked Paul whether we have a licence for OCAD10, as he hoped to convert the Tewkesbury map to OCAD. We don’t – we have a licence for one user and one computer for OCAD9, which Bob currently has. Pat M offered to try drawing some street maps where we only had old dirty paper copies.

**Action:** Dave will send Eddie a list of these events for the website and send a copy to Alan to email to the club.

**(e) JK 2014:** BOK favoured organising one day of JK 2014 jointly with NGOC. Pat M had told them we’d be open to doing that.

**(f) CompassSport Cup Final 2013:** BOK will be organising the CompassSport Cup Final in September or October 2013. Mike Forrest had approached Pat M to ask whether they could use Danby Lodge (in addition to Moseley Green). If this were to go ahead, Danby Lodge would be embargoed from September 2011. Since NGOC only recently spent £800 getting the area remapped, it seems unfair to lose use of it so soon. We also have 2 events scheduled there for 2011-2012, which would need rearranging. For these reasons, the committee would not be happy for BOK to use Danby Lodge for this event. We would certainly need a decent area of theirs (such as New Beechenhurst) to use in place of Danby Lodge, before considering it.

**Action:** Pat M will report back to Mike Forrest that we would not be happy with the arrangement.

## 10. Mapping report:

**(a) Printer problems:** Paul reported that the printer was now printing large black spots on all pages. He had ordered a new cartridge but if that doesn’t solve the problem he will call out the service people.

**(b) Tesco vouchers:** Paul had received 549 Tesco vouchers, which is worth approximately £5 of equipment for the club.

**(c) Hartpury College map:** Pat C reported that Neil was struggling to finish the map, due to both being busy and the College frequently building or moving things.

**Action:** Pat M will try to find another mapper to finish the map.

**(d) Maps for Kyla’s events:** Pat M had noticed that the maps for Kyla’s events are out of date and asked whether we should be updating them. It was agreed that it wasn’t worth spending money on updating them, but that we should ask people to do it voluntarily for these events. The areas are unlikely to be used for more complex events and thus small, simple updates should be sufficient.

**Action:** Pat M will agree with Terry Foxtton that we have permission to make these updates.

## 11. Equipment Officer’s report:

**(a) Laptops:** John reported that a basic laptop from PC World costs £250. He also suggested that we run league events as

SI events, thus getting more use out of any club laptops. It was agreed that we should buy one laptop, install the SI software and learn how to run it at league events next season. If, at any league event, there is nobody available with the experience to run the SI software, then we will run that event using auto-download as we do currently. John showed a set of results which had been printed using the splits printer, removing the need for a laser printer if we wish to display preliminary results during events.

**Action:** John will purchase a laptop.

**(b) Tents:** Pat M had stabilised the two mess tents and the only company to sell tunnel tents hadn't yet responded to his query about prices. It was decided that tunnel tents aren't needed at the moment.

## 12. Captain's report:

**(a) Harvester Relays:** Greg currently has 7 people wanting to run in the Harvester Relays.

**(b) Park Campus map:** Greg showed the committee the new map of the Park Campus in Cheltenham, which will be used for the Spring Series event on 28<sup>th</sup> May.

13. **Legend Editor's report:** Alan had printed lots of copies of the fixture list for 2011-2012, which he gave to Pat M to keep with the equipment, so that people can take them from events.

14. **Welfare report:** Nothing to add.

15. **Development Officer Report:** We will reflect on Caroline Gay's input and discuss development at the next committee meeting, when the two current projects have finished. Greg voiced an idea that people in their 20s could contribute more to the club in the short-term than children, so we should also aim to attract them when deciding on development projects.

**Action:** Pat M will chase up the University regarding their appointment of a Sports Coordinator.

16. **SWOA committee feedback:** Neil is now the British Orienteering liaison with WOA (not SWOA, as he was previously) so will no longer attend SWOA meetings. Pat M will attend the next few SWOA meetings as an NGOC representative and decide whether it is worthwhile to continue doing so.

## 17. AOB:

**(a) New club kit:** The committee briefly discussed the designs and prices (from Trimtex and Tackla) which Caroline had circulated before the meeting. There was no equivalent information from Noname yet, whom Caroline had also contacted. There was generally a preference for the Trimtex designs, most notably a design featuring a large picture of a compass. Several people thought it would be better if the compass could be replaced by the NGOC logo. Designs without too much white were preferred. There was concern over the price of the tops and how much people would be prepared to pay for them. They cost about £40 each, whereas we currently sell the old-style tops for less than £15. There was some concern over the tops being too tight for everyone to be happy with, though Caroline noted that both Trimtex and Tackla would allow us to have a looser-fitting option too. Paul asked whether there could be an option to personalize the tops by having our names on them. We will continue the discussion by email, once Caroline has obtained further information.

**Action:** Caroline will ask Trimtex about replacing the compass with the NGOC logo and whether we could have names on the tops. She will then email the committee with these details and the options from Noname, for everyone to respond to with their thoughts.

**(b) Website:** Jeremy has done some work on the website – there is now a structure in place and a new look. However, he is short of time and therefore still a long way from having something we can trial.

**(c) Rewarding long-serving members:** Tom Mills had suggested to Pat M that we recognise long-serving members of the club in some way, possibly by holding an event from which the proceeds are used to buy a reward/rewards for them. It was suggested that a mention or award at the AGM would be better. Some people thought this was a good idea. Carol and Chris weren't keen on the idea, because it would be very difficult to differentiate between who should be rewarded and who shouldn't. Carol also noted that people who help lots do it because they want to do it. Overall, there were mixed views on the matter so it will be discussed properly at the next meeting. In the meantime, Pat M will talk further to Tom about the idea.

**(c) Policy for selling maps:** This discussion was postponed until the next meeting, due to a shortage of time.

**(d) Forestry Panel:** The Forestry Panel will be visiting the Forest of Dean on 13<sup>th</sup> June. If they have a public consultation, Pat M will attend.

**Action:** Pat M will email everyone with details of how we can make our views known to the Forestry Panel.

**(e) Governance Review:** Roger asked whether people had views on the Governance Review which British Orienteering

had sent out. As we were short of time at the meeting, Roger will circulate his thoughts. On first look, it appeared to him that the restructuring would eliminate the overlaps they currently have between subcommittees.

**18. Next Committee Meeting:** Oxstalls Campus on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 7.30pm TC016

**19. Date for AGM:** The AGM will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November .

The meeting closed at 10pm.