

## Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting February 13th 2012

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

1. **Apologies:** Simon Denman
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> December meeting were accepted.
3. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** None
4. **Chairman's Report:** For the 2013 Galloper, Pat had obtained permission from BOK to use Headless Hill in addition to Symonds Yat.
5. **Secretary's report:** It was noted that lots of newcomers came to the Crickley Hill Informal. It was suggested that being close to a town had helped. A couple of newcomers said they'd seen a video about orienteering on Sky Sports, and some others had come with a local social club.
6. **Treasurer's report:** We will not chase up whether the FC charge for Level D events with 26-99 entries should be less than the published £50, as it is not causing us problems. If this changes in future, we may then chase it up.
7. **Membership Secretary's report:** Pat had brought BOK's glossy leaflet for Simon, but will give it to him another time.
8. **Events report:**

(a) **Fixtures for 2012-13 season:** Dave reported that organisers were still needed for three WNL events and the end-of-season event.

(b) **BOK use of Mallards Pike:** On asking BOK, Pat discovered it was him who gave them permission to use Mallards Pike for their Long 'O'. He will in future always copy in Roger or Dave when giving permission to others, though Roger thought he probably was copied in on this occasion.

While speaking to Sally Thomas of BOK about this, Pat expressed concern that we may be overusing some of our areas. Sally agreed and thought the same thing was happening to BOK's areas. She suggested we liaise more and use each other's areas more.

(c) **National Trust locations:** Dave had asked the National Trust whether they had any places they could suggest we use for orienteering, as they are known to be keen for their properties to be used for outdoor activities.

(d) **SWOA fixtures arrangement:** The idea of all clubs' full fixtures lists being submitted to SWOA for approval never came up at the SWOA committee meeting.

(e) **Military League event:** Pat reported that the event at Cleeve Hill on Wednesday had gone well and that the Army had appreciated it. He thanked all the helpers.

(f) **Winchcombe Walking Festival:** Greg has been liaising with Robert Talbot about this event on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May. He expects 60-70 teenagers (doing the D of E Award) from Cleeve and Winchcombe schools, in addition to people attending the Walking Festival. Robert had been invited to Winchcombe School to explain what orienteering is. Greg proposes to put on a score event, maybe with some courses plotted too. There was concern over safety issues with the golf course, but the fairways will be marked as danger areas on the map. Greg will also tape some safe corridors through the golf, for children. He will be looking for helpers nearer the time, and the orienteering will also be open to NGOC members.

(g) **Event archive:** Pat had circulated Neil's list of ideas and discussed it with Eddie. They thought most of the data could come from RouteGadget.

(h) **Flaxley follow-up and controllers at League events:** Pat concluded that most of the input about the Flaxley event was that, though it was hard and didn't conform to the guidelines, we have to expect this to happen occasionally and see it as a challenge.

Gary noted that he'd appreciated Paul's input before printing maps for his night event. John had emailed past organisers asking whether they'd be interested in doing some informal controlling. He'd had 7 positive replies. It was decided that we would have an informal controller for each League event, and they would mostly just do armchair controlling, to save time. We won't publish controllers in the fixture list or on the website, but a summary of the meeting will go in Legend, so that members know we plan to do this. We will tell the organisers our reasons that we are starting this: so that they get some extra help with checking their courses, so that people interested in controlling can have a go, and because past experiences have shown that it would be useful.

**Action:** John will arrange a meeting with the volunteer informal controllers.

**(i) University O Day:** The University of Gloucestershire is holding a taster event at Park Campus on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Feb. Pat is hoping to have more details from Caroline Gay soon.

**(j) Hartpury Studentevent:** Some orienteering will be organised by the Army people in NGOC at this event on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

**(k) Harris Relay:** Two members had independently suggested we put on a Harris relay at one of our events. This format requires people to compete in teams of 3. There are some “spine controls” which all 3 members of the team must visit and other controls which only one person needs to visit. There is a mass start for all competitors, after which each team decides who will visit each control. The time of the last person to finish is the time for the team.

The committee considered introducing a summer evening series of Harris relays, but it may be difficult for people to organise teams in advance. Instead, we will try a Harris Relay for the end-of-season event this year, at Minchinhampton.

**Action:** Pat will put a note about this on the website and invite people to enter teams. He will also email neighbouring clubs (HOC, NWO, BOK and SWOC) to invite them to enter teams and to ask if they’d be interested in a summer relay (or Harris relay) series.

**(l) Western Night League Fixtures Coordinator:** Mike Farrington is looking for someone to coordinate fixtures between clubs, as he no longer has enough time to do that aspect of the WNL.

**(m) Transfer of kit after Foxley event:** Gill reported that Lynden Hartmann was looking for someone to transport kit lent to HOC back from Foxley. Roger or Pat could do it.

## 9. Mapping report:

**(a) Reusing paper when printing maps:** Paul asked whether anybody has complained about having an old map (of a different area) on the reverse of their map. Nobody knew of any complaints so we will continue to do this.

**(b) Crickley Hill map and use of LIDAR data:** Bob Teed (among others) was very impressed with Greg’s map of Crickley Hill.

Erik Peckett had told Pat that LIDAR data is available quite cheaply from Geomatics, if you say you’re an orienteer and you’re not going to be using it for profit.

**Action:** Pat will find out how much this would cost and, if it’s reasonable, buy a tile of somewhere we would like LIDAR data.

OCAD 11 is in beta testing. Anyone who purchases OCAD 10 during this period will get upgraded to OCAD 11 for free after beta testing has been completed. If we think the LIDAR data purchased as above is good, we will upgrade to OCAD 10 so that we are able to incorporate the data easily

**(c) Forestry Commission meeting:** Paul had met with a beat forester, who was very keen to help and gave Paul details on which areas are due to be felled. We’ve assumed that when getting permission from Amanda, she checks felling with the foresters, but this might not work very well because we name areas differently to how they do. Pat suggested getting in touch with Amanda to ask how this all works and also to ask if we can meet with her at the beginning of the season to discuss our and their plans for the year. Paul has an old map of the forest with the different “walks” marked, with our areas on, but it is huge and not really printable. We hope that the FC would be able to provide a suitable map on which we can mark our areas.

Dave suggested that Paul could ask the forester he met whether he knows of any areas we’re not using that could be good for orienteering, since he seemed keen.

**Action:** Pat will get in touch with Amanda as above.

**(d) Award nomination:** Pat had nominated Bob for the Bonington trophy.

10. **Equipment Officer’s report:** Nothing to add.

11. **Captain’s report:** Pat will take the club tents from the event at Cranham on Saturday and bring them to the CompassSport Cup on Sunday.

12. **Legend Editor’s report:** Alan was thinking about the March edition of Legend. He hadn’t yet received many entries for the pub name competition from the previous edition, or photos for the March edition.

13. **Welfare report:**

**(a) Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults steering group:** Gill had brought the minutes from their meeting, for anyone to look at.

**(b) Clubmark accreditation:** Pat had found the Clubmark folder, which says the accreditation lasts until 2014. There doesn't seem to be a formal reaccreditation, so we expect that we'll just need to show that we're up to date with everything.

#### 14. **Development Officer Report:**

**(a) Event Safety workshop:** Pat thinks we should hold one at some point, even though it's not currently mandatory for organisers of Level D events. We will wait and see whether British Orienteering make it mandatory for Level D.

**(a) Coaches:** Pat reported that two coaches had been appointed. Harry Searle is a student at the University and will concentrate on Gloucester, while David Palmer is a lecturer and will concentrate on Cheltenham. A third candidate (Luke Sellers) will do similar work in Worcester.

The coaches are paid for by British Orienteering but will look to us for kit and orienteering knowledge, since neither of them is an orienteer. They are paid for approximately 3 hours of work each week. The intention is that they run a weekly Community 'O' activity based on fitness, sport or general activity, and that people interested in orienteering will then feed into our programme of events. We should think of some things to put on, which the coaches can run or otherwise help with. Pat hopes to have more information on this soon, after speaking to Caroline Gay.

**(b) Development programme for 2012 & Summer Evening series:** We will wait and see what happens with the coaches, but we can still plan a programme of summer evening events. Our Street 'O' events have never been hugely popular, while some other clubs have midweek success. SWOC's 1-hour score events in parks and (non-forest) terrain are popular, so maybe people prefer to run off-road.

We will put on 8 summer evening score events, between June and August, at places such as Cleeve Hill, Crickley Hill and Hartpury College. Paul suggested we hold one at an area we're considering remapping, so that we can tell whether it's worth it. We will aim to keep the events close to Cheltenham and Gloucester, so that people living there don't have far to travel. If 2 or 3 people get together and plan all 8 events, the individual organisers will have little to do other than putting out controls.

**Action:** Pat will put some thoughts together and suggest some areas to start off with, and may plan some courses on the way to the Army events, together with other Army people.

**(c) Calton Road junior school:** Dave had a contact at this school, who is keen for us to go in and give a presentation on orienteering, and suggested we put on some short courses in their playing field. Dave suggested we do the presentation and take some marketing material from British Orienteering. Then if we get good feedback, we could try the same thing in other schools.

This initiated some discussion on whether putting on small events at schools on Wednesday evenings would be worthwhile. It was thought not, due to difficulties in getting schools open in the evenings and concerns over whether pupils would come back in the evening.

**Action:** Pat will mention the presentation to Caroline Gay, for the coaches, and will pass the contact details on to her.

**(d) Non-orienteering volunteers:** Neil Cameron had told Pat that the athletics community had written a paper about getting non-athletics people to volunteer to help with administration. The possibility of NGOC doing something similar was discussed, but we concluded that the general public would be unlikely to volunteer to help at events which weren't very nearby, nor would they likely be interested in volunteering for something little-known like orienteering.

#### 15. **SWOA committee feedback:** Nothing to report.

#### 16. **AOB:**

**(a) New club kit:** Caroline reported that she'd sent in an order for 46 tops, but there had been problems getting an accurate confirmation back. It should all be finalized within a few days

**(b) New website:** Gary took photos of the committee to go on the website. The site seems to have gone down well. Eddie, John and Pat had been discussing whether there's enough news on the front page, without wanting to clog it up. We want to use it more proactively, for example using polls to see what kind of events people would come to on a summer evening. We need more editors to put content on and maintain it. It would make sense for committee members to have this role, and in particular Caroline, Alan and Dave need FTP accounts to upload files. Roger, Carol, Gill and Gary were also happy to help. Pat has written some "How to" guides for editors. If people feel they need more guidance than this, a meeting will be arranged to demonstrate how to do various things.

**Action:** Gary will send the photos to Pat, to be put on the website.

**Action:** Pat will ask Eddie to create the necessary FTP accounts.

**Action:** Pat will publish his "How to" guides.

**(c) Committee job descriptions:** Pat asked if everyone could write a short description of their job. Several people thought they'd written them a few years ago and Gill thought she might have a copy of them.

**Action:** Gill will look for the job descriptions. If she doesn't have them, Pat will email everyone asking them to write a new one.

**(d) New Incentives scheme:** Paul noted that this new scheme, advertised on British Orienteering's website, will require results from Level D events to be uploaded to their website. Then newcomers can get a certificate after completing courses at a number of events.

**(e) Ranking lists and Terry Bradstock trophy:** John suggested that we calculate the Terry Bradstock trophy winner differently, by using the British Orienteering ranking list. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Pat suggested that we could put a club filter of the British Orienteering ranking list on the "Awards" page of our website.

**(f) Ladies training day:** Gill will attend this event, run by Katy Dyer of BOK, and afterwards think about whether we could do something similar.

**(g) OCAD 10 licence:** John asked Paul whether he could run OCAD 10 (or 9) temporarily for controlling an event on 29<sup>th</sup> April. Paul thought Bob probably had our licence at the moment, but it should be transferable to John to control this event.

**17. Next Committee Meeting:**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 7:30pm in TC016, Oxstalls Campus.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.