

Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting September 10th 2012

Present: Pat McLeod, Dave Hartley, Alan Brown, Paul Taunton, Caroline Craig, Greg Best, John Fallows, Simon Denman.

1. **Apologies:** Roger Coe, Carol Stewart, Gary Wakerley, Gill James.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the 2nd July meeting were accepted.
3. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** None
4. **Chairman's Report:** Nothing to add.
5. **Secretary's report:**

(a) **Facebook:** Caroline had created a "page" for NGOC on Facebook, to replace the personal account registered as Ngoc Oclub. She had added some details from the website and listed some upcoming events. There was some discussion on whether we want all posts from the website to appear on the page and whether we want events to be listed using the Facebook application. Caroline will continue to populate the page and create events, since even if very few people find it, it requires little effort.

(b) **Permanent Orienteering Courses:** Pat had been looking at whether the details on POCs in our area are up to date. When he asked at Christchurch campsite, they claimed the course there was defunct. Someone had tried to get a map of the Pittville Park POC, but without success. Paul had been to Lightning Tree Hill with a 1987 map of a POC there, and discovered that more posts were there than were missing (and some of the missing ones had paint on the trees instead).

Action: Pat will encourage Christchurch campsite to start selling maps again, pointing out that people will pay money for them.

Action: Greg will ask the owners of the café in Pittville Park whether they'll sell maps, as they have been keen to advertise our evening events in the park. He will also contact Cheltenham Borough Council to ask if they will replace the missing or damaged posts and to see if they can publicise it better.

6. **Treasurer's report:**

(a) **Accounts for AGM:** Though we won't have signed-off accounts by the AGM, we will want an idea of how they're looking to help with deciding about membership fees and entry fees.

(b) **Membership and entry fees:** British Orienteering had announced that their online joining/renewal system will allow for clubs to offer a Family membership option, but the committee decided that this was unnecessary for us. At the AGM, we will propose membership fees of £4 for Seniors and free for Juniors. Our entry fees can be decided by the committee so there is no rush to set them. We will therefore see what this year's accounts look like and then make a decision on entry fees at the next committee meeting.

(c) **Expenses:** Pat has included our policy for expenses in the checklist for organisers which he has written and published to the website. The policy is that helpers who don't get a run due to helping can claim mileage, while organisers who help but also get a run will get that run for free.

7. **Membership Secretary's report:**

(a) **New members:** Simon knew of two new people joining NGOC, and also a tentative third.

(b) **Membership page on website:** We won't update this until after the AGM (when we've set our fees), but before joining/renewal opens on 1st November.

Action: Simon will work out what to say (after the AGM) and then update the page.

(c) **Encouraging membership:** This discussion stemmed from an observation that our description of league events states that anyone not in an orienteering club will be non-competitive, but we shouldn't mark people as non-competitive for September and October if they then join in November. In reality, we still award points to those not in an orienteering club, but they aren't eligible for prizes. Some people come to lots of events but don't actually join the club. We advertise that events cost £1 more for those not in a club, but don't actually enforce it. We will discuss whether to enforce this (or use some other means of encouraging people to join) when we discuss entry fees.

8. **Events report:**

(a) **Fixtures for 2012-13 season:** Dave was just waiting for the Western Night League website to be updated for this season so that he could add our events to it.

(b) Fixtures for 2013-14 season: The dates and most venues had been decided and circulated between Dave, Roger and Pat. It was decided that the Chairman's Challenge, which was penciled in for Sallowvalls, should be moved to a different area because the area is now unsuitable for a daytime score due to increased mountain bike use. A possible alternative venue could be a rejuvenated area or a newly mapped area.

(b) Summer programme: This summer's events went quite well. The Wednesday evening events attracted 18-20 runners and the Saturday attendance averaged about 40 and peaked at about 70. The difference from last year wasn't due to more newcomers, but more regular orienteers.

It was thought that two events each week was a bit much (for organising, delivering equipment and printing maps), so next year we will have one per week. In total, there were 19 newcomers on Wednesdays and 40 on Saturdays, so the ratio of newcomers to regulars was little different between Wednesdays and Saturdays. However, the greater numbers on Saturdays suggested that to be the better day (although we might consider alternating between the two if it doesn't appear too confusing).

The summer programme for next year will be put together soon, so that the fixtures booklet (of which we have no copies left) can be reissued with those events included.

Action: Pat will arrange a fixtures subcommittee meeting soon after the AGM to discuss fixtures (including next year's summer programme) and areas to map.

(c) SHIs at Caddihoe Chase 2014: It was felt that adding the SHIs to the Caddihoe would not be too onerous – it just needs to be good events on good areas. Pat said he was happy to organize both days, but we still need to find planners. The SHI needs a relay, whereas the Caddihoe is a chasing start, but in the past the relay has been started earlier so that changeover is happening while the Caddihoe starts, adding to the atmosphere.

Action: Pat will reply to John Rye to say we'll take on the SHIs.

(d) MADDO: John asked whether MADDO still exists, having noticed that all eight events in the mini league are NGOC events, while our website still says we might use one or two MADDO events in our mini league. Dave reported that the MADDO initiative has now finished. HOC now have their own mini league, but only HOC members are eligible for prizes.

Action: Pat will remove references to MADDO from the website.

9. Mapping report:

(a) "All controls" maps: The pros and cons of using these for summer events were discussed. It's easier to use a map with just your course on, but printing individual courses means more waste because there will usually be spares from each course. We aim to print enough individual maps so that most people get them, and only latecomers might need to use an "all controls" map.

(b) OCAD 11: OCAD 11 had been ordered. It comes with licences to run it on two computers. John had ordered a battery for the old club laptop, so hopefully that will be working again soon, so that we'll have two club laptops.

(c) LIDAR data: Pat had researched the costs of 1m, 2m and 5m LIDAR data for some of our areas, from a few different companies. All the LIDAR data was recent. Because it is treated as a commercial transaction, it is quite expensive. However, Bob had estimated we used to pay around seven or eight hundred pounds for a geometric plot of an area, and 2m LIDAR data of Lightning Tree Hill costs similar to that, suggesting it's worth doing for our bigger events. Greg had been told by various people that 5m data would not be good enough, because some features like pits can be missed completely, but it might be possible to use it to create a base map. Pat suggested we could buy some 5m data of an area we have 2m data for, to compare them. Paul suggested that we use the LIDAR data we already have, to see what we learn from that before deciding what to get for other areas. It was decided that a subcommittee should meet to discuss what to do. In the meantime, people are welcome to try remapping areas we already have LIDAR data for, if they have time. Pat had informed Woodchester Park that we've hit a stumbling block due to LIDAR costs and also enquired as to whether they'd be prepared to make a contribution.

10. Equipment Officer's report: Nothing to add.

11. Captain's report:

(a) Crickley Hill POC: Greg had walked around Crickley Hill with the warden to show where all the posts will be. They should be there in the next few weeks. The council (responsible for Crickley Hill) will contact local schools to tell them about the new course.

(b) Possible extension of Cranham: The people responsible for Crickley Hill are also responsible for Coopers Hill, so we could extend our Cranham map to there. Another small nearby area, Rough Park, is owned by Natural England (who own another part of Cranham) so we should be able to get access there too. Greg also has contacts for Witcombe Woods and will approach them. If successful, he will look at mapping the extension to Cranham (using the LIDAR data we already

have). He also plans to remap the existing Cranham area, again using LIDAR data.

12. Legend Editor's report: Nothing to add.

13. Welfare report: Nothing to add.

14. Development Officer's Report:

Simon asked about how we can improve our publicity and whether we should encourage event organisers to send flyers to likely places, such as running clubs. It was generally thought that a Publicity Officer would be the best way forward, as they could have all the contacts, but we don't have anyone experienced in this in the club. Simon will look at some ideas for publicity, over the course of the winter.

15. SWOA committee feedback: Nothing to report.

16. AOB:

(a) AGM talk: As the AGM is close, the possibility of replacing the speaker with something else was discussed. Ideas included asking members for feedback about various aspects of the club, including the website. It was also suggested that people might come because they like the talk, as attendance has increased recently.

Action: Pat will ask Natalie from the National Trust at Woodchester. If she is not interested, he will start thinking of some questions we can ask members during the time usually taken up by a talk.

(b) Committee positions: Kim Liggett had expressed interest in mapping, having previously drawn maps for the Ordnance Survey. Paul does a lot of vital printing and controlling and doesn't have time to take on mapping at the moment. It was suggested that Kin could organise the remapping schedule and maybe do some of the remapping. Another useful thing to do would be updating areas where we have LIDAR data. It was proposed that Paul continues as Mapping Officer next year, with Kim as an assistant, so that she can decide whether she'd like to take it on afterwards.

Action: Pat will ask Kim how she feels about an arrangement like this.

There had been no interest in the Fixtures position. Suggestions made at the meeting included the Robinsons and the Stotts. When asking people, it should be pointed out that this is a joint position and therefore one person is not expected to do everything.

(c) Event Archive: This should be announced in Legend. The risk assessments which go in the archive should be soft copies rather than signed copies.

(d) Committee job descriptions: Pat has uploaded these to the reference section of the website.

(e) Club top reorders: We expect to reorder fairly soon and will try and get an idea of interest at the AGM.

(f) Association and club Conference: Nobody had volunteered to go representing NGOC. Neil Cameron is going representing British Orienteering and had said he can also represent us if we wish.

(g) Ranking lists and Terry Bradstock trophy: John had made some enquiries about the British Orienteering ranking list. It is the courses you actually run on that give you points in the ranking list. However nobody could explain how or why you get fewer points for shorter courses. It is also not possible to download the whole British Orienteering ranking list, so we will keep the Terry Bradstock calculation the same this year and hope the ranking list has been made easier to use by next year.

17. Next Meetings:

(a) 2012 AGM: Monday 8th October 2012 at 7:30pm in TC218A, Oxstalls Campus.

(b) Next committee meeting: Monday 26th November 2012 at 7:30pm in TC119, Oxstalls Campus.

The meeting closed at 9:50pm.