

## Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting February 18<sup>th</sup> 2013

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

1. **Apologies:** Simon Denman
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> November meeting were accepted.
3. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** John F had removed all MADO references from the website.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Nothing to add.
5. **Secretary's report:**

### Permanent Orienteering Courses:

- Symonds Yat: The Christchurch campsite are happy to start selling maps again but want the Forestry Commission to do more to maintain the course. The campsite gave Pat a contact at the FC, so he will get in touch with them about it.
- Pittville Park: Greg is still waiting for the council to get back to him to say that the replacement posts are in place.
- Woodchester Park : Pat is meeting with people there next week and will discuss plans for the permanent course.
- (new location) Beechenhurst: Greg suggested this area because it gets lots of visitors and is a nice place. After his experiences at Crickley Hill, he saw POCs as a good way to develop interest in orienteering.

**Action:** Pat will talk to BOK about doing a joint POC there, as it is their area.

6. **Treasurer's report:** Since the report was written, we had received £723 from CROESO. Carol also noted that the donation to the Woodland Trust may be a bit less, due to some expenses Alan had informed her about.
7. **Membership Secretary's report:** Only one member had complained about being forced to become a BOF member as a result of the membership changes. Simon had responded with an explanation.
8. **Events report:**

**(a) Permissions for Summer 2013 and 2013-14 fixtures:** John C had only heard from 2 of the 5 landowners regarding Cranham, but had given them the option to not reply if they were happy, so this wasn't seen to be a problem. Some landowners had asked for a risk assessment, and John wondered whether it's usual to send these so far in advance. After some discussion, the committee concluded that the best thing would be to send a generic risk assessment with the caveat that it would be updated nearer the time when the courses were being planned.

**Action:** Gary will send his generic risk assessment to John C, to send on to those who have requested it.

**(b) Fixtures for Summer 2013 and 2013-14 season:** John C circulated the list of fixtures and organisers, which was mostly filled in but still had some gaps. A number of committee members volunteered to organise some of the missing events, leaving only the Gallopen, one League event (Sheepscombe on 21<sup>st</sup> Sept), one Summer evening event (at Minchinhampton on 15<sup>th</sup> August) and the NYD event without organisers. It was suggested that Simon may be interested in the League event so John will email him to ask. Pat was keen that someone who hasn't had to organise the Gallopen recently would be able to organise it in 2014, to take the load off the same people.

The other event which was not yet fixed was WNL2 on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, because Joe Taunton had volunteered to do it if the location can be swapped with WNL3 (at Bixslade on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb). If it cannot be swapped, John F volunteered to organise WNL2 (at Cleeve Hill) and it's then possible Joe might be able to organize the NYD event instead.

**Action:** John C will send the updated list to Pat once these have been confirmed, so that Pat can get a new set of booklets printed.

**(c) Gallopen 2013:** Pat reported that the planning was going okay and there had been no complaints from the controller. However it was difficult not knowing where there will be forestry work and when. Pat had inquired in the café and was told they do a wide range of light bites, but it's only a small café for such large numbers (and a fair walk up the hill to get to it). We will therefore accept Podium Catering's offer to come.

**Action:** Roger will reply to Podium Catering to ask them to attend the Gallopen

**(d) Map printing numbers:** Pat noted that we've been running out of maps recently, which is an encouraging sign that more people are coming to our events. Paul said he's happy to be more generous when predicting numbers in light of this trend (especially as we're printing on the backs of old maps).

**(e) SHIs:** Goodrich YHA had been booked for the weekend. Pat and Paul had discussed areas but were yet to decide

(though Mallards Pike looked most likely). Carol also suggested Lydney Park as an alternative, and this may be a more likely possibility now that they've stopped shooting there. However there was some concern that it may have deteriorated and become more brambly recently.

**Action:** Pat will send sketch maps of possible places to Paul and Peter, to think about how the courses, start, etc. could fit in.

(f) **JK Relays 2014:** Pat had told BOK we would help them by providing some helpers.

## 9. Mapping report:

(a) **Woodchester Park:** Pat is going to meet with the people there next week. He has a base map and will soon need people to help with filling it in. Currently the car park at the top has been cut off, to fit the map on at 1:10,000 scale, but it may need putting back on to aid with navigation and relating to an obvious starting point. Pat also mentioned that he may need to purchase 2 more tiles of LIDAR data. Carol agreed that he could buy these if necessary.

(b) **Cranham extension:** Greg had been making progress and had used the LIDAR data to make contour lines.

(c) **Little Doward:** These woods are across the river from Symonds Yat. They could be worth looking at as a potential new area. Anyone going for a walk locally is encouraged to go there and have a look round.

## 10. Equipment Officer's report:

(a) **Old club laptop:** This had worked for one charge of the new battery, but after that the battery appeared broken. Our OCAD 11 licence is for two machines and we'd planned to put it on this laptop to give to Kim Liggett. Greg had looked online at the requirements for OCAD 11 and they were much higher than this laptop. If it's beyond economic work, we could either use OCAD 9 on this laptop or buy a new laptop.

**Action:** John F will take the laptop and see if he can make it work properly, and whether we can raise the memory specification.

(b) **SI unit batteries:** Pat had noticed that we're getting short of spare units and asked whether people thought we should buy some more. Several of our units are getting low on battery. Since the units are quite expensive and batteries are much cheaper, we will begin replacing batteries where they are low. John F had already bought some batteries and successfully changed one, but had not bought any sealant. As there is a bit of work involved in changing a battery, it is best to do them one or two at a time, starting soon.

11. **Captain's report:** We are through to the CompassSport Trophy final. Greg congratulated everyone and the committee thanked Greg for organising the team.

12. **Legend Editor's report:** The March edition will be coming out in a couple of weeks. Pat will include something about the government's announcement on the Forestry Commission, either in his Chairman's Chat or as a separate article. Alan had brought along his new orienteering board games – actually 4 games in 1 – which was admired by the committee.

13. **Welfare report:** Gill confirmed that we will get most of the money back from paying for her trip to the coaching conference, which she couldn't get to because of the snow. She hadn't yet got the details of the Chinese clothing firm mentioned in her report.

**Coaching:** Pat and Gill had discussed how we could provide learning opportunities for newcomers, as we don't currently do so. Gill proposed offering coaching sessions after the Summer Saturday events. These would be advertised on the website (including what would be covered at each session) and people would be asked to give some indication of attendance in advance, if possible. After some discussion, it was decided that the coaching session should happen before the event, so that the start time can be better defined and so that people can use what they've learnt at the event afterwards. Each session will be 30 minutes long, starting at 11am, to allow a break before the event starts at 12pm. Roger also suggested adding a social aspect after the event, though people may be less likely to stay around if people finish at a wide variety of times. John F suggested having a smaller start window to ease this problem.

Doing paper exercises on old maps was suggested and Carol reported that Ian Stirrups is likely to still have lots of old maps. Paul also recommended contour-only maps for Cleeve Hill and Crickley Hill.

**Action:** Gill will send a draft syllabus round the committee for suggestions of other things to include. She will then send the syllabus to Pat, to put online in a month or so.

## 14. Development Officer's Report:

Pat had put on a session at Bournside school in January, for around 90 students. He was also planning a GCSE practical session (at TD3) for them at Cranham and then another session at the school on 5<sup>th</sup> March, this time for around 25 students.

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

16. **AOB:**

(a) **Event Archive:** This has been a bit slow getting started. It became apparent that not everyone is aware of it, so it needs more promotion.

**Action:** Pat will write something about the event archive for Legend.

(b) **Club top reorders:** Caroline had ordered a second batch of tops from Trimtex, and was pleasantly surprised when they didn't enforce their requirements for a minimum order of each type. Delivery is expected in March.

(c) **Incentives Scheme / Uploading results from League events:** Carol had received a certificate from the British Orienteering incentives scheme, which sparked a discussion on whether our League results had been uploaded and counted towards this. John F has been uploading our League results, so they should be counted (and may therefore help our newcomers to get awards through this scheme). Alan will mention the existence of the BOF incentives scheme in Legend. Paul reported that Ollie O'Brien's website has a page where you can type a name in and it lists where that person came in events that they have been to.

(d) **UK Orienteering League:** Paul told the committee that any club can apply for their event to be included in this league and suggested we apply (e.g. for the Caddihoe 2014), to increase numbers.

**Action:** Gill will ask the events committee how we apply.

(e) **Bonington Trophy nomination:** Pat had mentioned to Bob that he planned to nominate him, but Bob said it wasn't worth all the work as he wasn't really interested in it anyway.

17. **Next Meeting:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at 7:30pm in TC119, Oxstalls Campus.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.