

Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting July 22nd 2013

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

1. **Apologies:** Gill James.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the 22nd April meeting were accepted.

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

4. **Chairman's Report:** On Saturday, Pat had given a live broadcast about the Maize Maze orienteering, on BBC Radio Gloucester.

5. **Secretary's report:**

(a) **League 1 informal controller:** Caroline asked whether anyone would be willing to informally control this event, which she is organising at Sheepscombe on 21st September. Roger offered to do this, although cannot be there on the day.

(b) **Orienteering indoors:** The report mentioned a possibility of offering orienteering at a sports camp, which didn't happen this year due to the camp being held in a sports hall. Paul pointed out that this needn't be a showstopper, because a "Naughty Numbers" course can be done by taping SI boxes to lines on the floor.

(c) **Permanent Orienteering Courses:**

- Symonds Yat and Beechenhurst: Pat had not yet had time to talk to the FC and BOK, respectively. He had had interest in Christchurch from a few people.
Action: Pat will talk to the FC about Symonds Yat and BOK about doing a joint POC at Beechenhurst.
- Pittville Park: This is progressing slowly as detailed in Greg's report.
- Woodchester Park: Pat reported that the Woodchester map is basically done. There is a blank block which we would like to fill in, to make the area more usable. Pat is trying to get in touch with the owner of this land. He is also waiting for an OOB section to be confirmed, and this might be extended. Pat and Bob will design some potential POCs and then work out between them what to suggest to the National Trust.

6. **Treasurer's report:**

(a) **Report Update:** Carol added that she'd paid a few more levies and sold a few more tops, since writing the report.

(b) **Mini League attendance and revenue:** When discussing the Chairman's report, Pat had brought up the subject of this season's Mini League attendance compared to last year's. He had reported a worrying decrease in Legend, but had since realised that this was mostly due to his counting the Gallopen in only last year's total. He asked Carol how the revenue from the two seasons compared. Carol confirmed that this season's was around £2600, compared to around £3200 last season. Given that there were 8 events last season and only 7 this season, the decrease is not too significant. At the next meeting in September, we will consider whether we need to increase fees next year.

(c) **Mini League prizes:** The committee agreed to the prizes suggested by Carol in her report.

7. **Membership Secretary's report:** Simon reported that we currently have 145 members. Roger asked how long we keep lapsed members on the list, as the number of lapsed members seemed quite high. Simon knows that some of them are still coming to events and running as NGOC, so they should definitely remain on the list. Also, 19 of them were members last year so they should remain on the list at least for now. Carol offered to look through the list and identify those that need chasing and those that are unlikely to come back.

Action: Simon will send the list of lapsed members to Carol, who will recommend whom to remove from it.

8. **Events report:**

(a) **Minchinhampton summer evening event:** This has been cancelled, because there is no organiser and because it's not an ideal location for a midweek evening event.

(b) **Fixtures 2013-2014:** Pat asked whether the current fixture list was accurate, so that he could publish it on the website. John C confirmed that it was up to date, although an area needed to be picked for League 7.

Action: Pat will publish the fixtures on the website, once the location of League 7 is chosen.

(c) **Cleeve Hill access:** John C reported that David Stevenson had been angry at John's event at Cleeve Hill, because he wanted to be reminded about events happening there, two weeks before they happen. This is something to remember for

future events there and exactly the kind of thing the event archive will be useful for.

(d) BBC “Get Inspired”: The BBC have started a new scheme called “Get Inspired”, as part of the “Things To Do” scheme. Pat will register us for this too, when he lists next season’s events on the “Things To Do” website.

(e) Caddihoe Chase and VHIs: This is progressing fairly slowly. Pete Ward will plan the individual races on both days, while Paul Taunton will plan the relay. An assembly area has been provisionally agreed. This is an old tip near the top of the Mallards Pike map. It is hoped that the relay changeover can take place in the lower part of this area. A controller still needs to be found – Roger and Pat will discuss this in Scotland. Pat will update John Rye when we are reasonably firm in our plans. The remapping of Mallards Pike is currently on hold pending a decision on exactly which areas we want to use. However, it would be best to work this out soon so that the mapper can look at the area in September.

(d) Summer program: We had around 50 runners at the Saturday events and usually less than 20 at the Thursday evening events. Changing from Wednesday to Thursday evenings this year didn’t seem to have affected the numbers. The series seems to be well-regarded, as it draws in runners from other clubs too. We could encourage higher attendance by making it into a league. The format of events is fine and needs to be kept as simple as possible so that they remain easy to organise. The urban events in particular could help us to introduce more runners to the sport. Greg also suggested we could do a rural Street O using lanes and paths in the countryside.

There followed a discussion about whether to introduce ISSOMs (sprint specification maps) for urban areas. This is detailed further in 9(a), under mapping. The consensus was that we should use similar maps to what we currently use, but that they need to be broadly right so as not to put people off. A key element of summer events is that they should be little work for the organiser. Therefore, rather than the organiser having to make the map, we should have a library of maps which are updated on an ad hoc basis.

Another consideration was whether to offer two line courses, rather than a score course, at the evening events. There are advantages to both, though the advantage of score for predicting map numbers was the most quoted.

It was also decided that we should make it clearer (in our terminology) that these are just fun, informal events. Pat also suggested that we use more expressive names than “summer evening [orienteering] event”, as many people don’t actually know what orienteering is.

(e) Maize Maze event: This went very well and people really enjoyed it, so we’ll definitely do it again next year. We need to negotiate a better price deal next time, as it cost us in the end. Paul added that he had lots of photos from the event, a selection of which can go on the website.

9. Mapping report:

(a) Printing equipment stocks: Paul announced that the stock of used paper had run out. It was suggested that we could ask in Legend for people to give Paul any unwanted waterproof maps which could be reused.

Paul reported that more ink will be needed soon. He posed the question of whether to continue buying proper Minolta ink, or to get cheaper ink. This was discussed in some depth and it was concluded that we should try the cheaper ink, to see whether it’s as good, but hope to try it out on less important events until we’re confident that it’s good enough.

(b) Sprint specification urban maps: The committee considered whether we want to get into putting on urban events. Although we may not be so keen on them ourselves, other clubs are getting into urban events and it seems like a very good way to get new people into the sport. Therefore we hope to put on some urban events, on sprint specification maps. The first step is to get a base map. For this, there are two types of data available from Ordnance Survey – the cheaper (OS Base Map) costs around £30 for a 5km square, whereas the more expensive (OS Master Map) costs around £350 for an A4 area of 1:5,000 scale map. The best plan is to try some cheap data first to see whether it is good enough.

Richard Cronin and Joe Gidley are currently making a sprint specification map of Ross-on-Wye and think it should be suitable for a regional urban event. Level C events and regional urban leagues are arranged 1 or 2 years in advance, so we will consider suggesting a Level C event in Ross next time we’re asked to propose events for the urban league. Richard and Joe are also interested in making urban maps of Worcester, Hereford and Gloucester.

Pat plans to try making a sprint specification map of Taunton, from data that he already has, to see whether it could work using that type of data. Also, Mark Boyce is keen to have a map of Gloucester city centre (as described in the Chairman’s report) and wanted to know approximately how much this would cost. Pat had suggested £3,000-£5,000 would be a suitable amount for us to be able to get this done.

(c) Tewkesbury wetlands: Tewkesbury Council had emailed John F to say that they’d like to have a map of the wetlands, for local children to use. We can have a go at this if we can be provided with some base data.

Action: John F will reply to ask whether we can be supplied with base data (or money with which to buy some), or will suggest the council get in touch with Pat about it.

(d) LIDAR data: This is now free to us. Pat has a copy of an email from the Environment Agency, confirming that the data is free to orienteering clubs because we’re classed as non-profit.

(e) **New areas:** Little Doward is still not bad but still very steep. Soudley is not suitable for remapping at the moment.

10. Equipment Officer's report:

(a) **SI box labels:** Pat had bought waterproof vinyl labels to relabel the SI boxes, so that the labels do not cover the light.

Action: Pat will give the labels to Paul to get printed.

(b) **Old club laptop:** Pat had given the laptop to Kim.

Action: Pat and Paul will get all the maps together to give to Kim.

11. Captain's report: Pat thanked Greg for getting a team together for Sports Fest and said he had some photos from it, which he would put on the website. Lots of children had come and enjoyed the Naughty Numbers course (and done it lots of times). It's still uncertain whether it's worth doing next year, as it's hard to tell whether people will come to our events because of seeing us there.

Pat also thanked Greg for organising teams to run at lots of the team events this year.

12. Legend Editor's report: Alan had been thanked from a few people who enjoyed the latest Legend. Pat highlighted that it's good to see we have some new names writing articles, which Alan pointed out was thanks to Greg for suggesting Alan send the article request out to the whole club.

13. Welfare report: Gill's summary of her summer coaching programme is discussed under Development (section 14).

14. Coaching: Gary summarised the outcome of Gill's summer coaching programme. Gill did lots of work planning three sessions, hoping for progression between them. She selflessly didn't have a run at any of these events. The coaching suffered at Cleeve Hill, as detailed in Gill's report, but Gill realises this was due to circumstances and was mainly due to the coaching not being fully integrated with the main event.

A big difficulty with coaching small groups of people is that there is often a very mixed age group. In this case, it would be useful to split into smaller groups to go with the different coaches there.

Although it's not easy to arrange and is a lot of effort, the committee felt that it is good to have coaching on offer, rather than leave newcomers to work it out for themselves. It also gives coaches opportunities to practice and develop their skills. The coaches should discuss and decide on how they'd like coaching opportunities next year to be promoted on the website (e.g. a simple form or an email address to book coaching). Pat and Greg will discuss this with Gill first, as they will all be at the Scottish 6 Days.

Simon reported that he gets quite a few members enquiring about whether coaching is available. It would be good to reply to these saying "yes" and asking if they'd like a coach to get in touch with them. Roger also suggested that when a person first joins the club a coach could get in touch to ask whether they would like coaching.

There was some discussion on whether paying a small amount of money in advance would make people more likely to turn up, but the committee concluded that this would be hard to implement and we don't really want to charge on top of the charge to run.

15. SWOA committee feedback: Nothing to report.

16. AOB:

(a) **Committee succession planning:** Nobody had said they'll step down yet (with the exception of Pat as Chairman).

(b) **Event Archive:** Pat is behind schedule on updating this, but doesn't yet have all the information from all events.

(c) **Cleeve Hill summer event:** Paul observed that Neil's event on Cleeve Hill had been planned such that it was easy to put out (with all controls concentrated in a small complex area). He was interested in how it had been for competitors. Those who had attended said everyone had enjoyed it, which suggests it's a good way to do small events (on an area that allows it).

(d) **Forest Sprint at Painswick:** Richard Cronin had suggested Painswick for a "Forest Sprint". Since we have LIDAR data we could remap the detail of that area, if anyone is interested in doing some mapping from LIDAR data.

(e) **AGM:** Pat asked the committee to think about whether to use the AGM to ask the membership what they think we should do next year. This could take the form of an open question, a multiple choice questionnaire, or a summary of hot topics at recent committee meetings. Another option would be to hold a separate "club development meeting", in case some people are put off by the formalities involved with an AGM. It was also hoped that discussions like this would happen in Scotland, as 32 NGOC members have entered.

17. **Next Meeting:** Monday 23rd September 2013 at 7:30pm in TC016, Oxstalls Campus.
AGM date: Monday 14th October 2013 (to be held at Oxstalls campus)

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.