

Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting 9th December 2013

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

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the 23rd September meeting were accepted.
3. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** Gill had contacted Alan Wicks and he hopes to come to the NYD event, so we don't need to worry about having put him off.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Gary added that the Triangle Radio interview seemed to go well. He had not yet heard back from HOC about collaborating with summer events, so we will go ahead and organise our own events on dates that suit us.
5. **Secretary's report:** Nothing to add. Pat asked what the annual return is. Caroline explained that it's just a list of this year's committee members and contact details, details of membership fees and links to the club constitution and the minutes from the previous year's AGM. Carol, Caroline and Gary were thanked for providing mince pies and mulled wine for this, the Christmas committee meeting.
6. **Treasurer's report:**
Carol highlighted the need to order more club O tops. Another copy of the order form will go in Legend and on the club website. Gill S also suggested that it could be put on Facebook, adding that Vanessa Lawson is happy to help the Facebook page to become more popular and well-used.
7. **Membership Secretary's report:** The membership numbers are steadily increasing, which is encouraging. It does mean we're in the CompassSport Cup competition next year though. Simon was thanked, for organising Saturday's League event at such short notice, as well as for his success as Membership Secretary.
8. **Events report:** Gary thanked John for getting the fixtures subcommittee together and drafting a fixtures list.

(a) 2014 – 2015 Season: The draft fixtures list had been circulated before the meeting. The general idea is that all events come in pairs – a League event followed by a Training event on the same area. Each event would have a planner/organiser and each pair of events would have an assigned coach. The coach would think of a training technique suitable for that area and then the organiser of the Training event would plan some training (with the assistance of the coach), but also a TD4/5 course for those who just want to run a normal course. Paul suggested that a different Green course could be picked out from the TD4/5 controls used at the League event, then a “star course” or similar be used closer to the base.

Some alternatives to this format were discussed. Greg suggested holding Training events on the Sundays following our Western Night League events, because this would save one occasion of control collecting and one of control hanging, each time we did this. A potential drawback is that neighbouring clubs have slightly more events on Sundays than on Saturdays so there would be more competition. John F suggested that we swap the order, so that people come along to a Training event and then we suggest they come back in two weeks' time to “try it for real” in the same place. This would give people who came to the Training event an advantage at the League event though, especially if the same control sites were used.

Gill S reminded people that the pre-AGM discussions had concluded that Informal (or Training) events shouldn't be thought of as second class to League events. The intention on the Training events is to train up people who want coaching.

About nine people signed up to the coaching events last summer, which suggests that people would sign up in advance if we asked them to.

Roger noted that by reusing areas as suggested, we rest some other areas.

(b) Summer Programme: Pat had drawn up a draft summer programme, after the fixtures subcommittee had not had time to discuss it. This had been circulated before the meeting. This year the summer series begins before the end of the main season, in order to stretch out the summer period. As before, there are weekday evening events and Saturday events, all fairly close to Cheltenham and Gloucester, with the Saturday events being similar to the current Informal events. As a result of the pre-AGM discussions, the weekday evening events will involve line courses, rather than being score events like in previous years. These evening events will take place in urban areas, in the hope of attracting runners, and maps will be ISSOM (or close to that standard). For this, we plan to remap Abbeymead and Barnwood (which Pat will do using Vector Map Local), and possibly Pittville and Park Campus.

After last year's success, one of the summer events will be held at the Maize Maze. We will also hold an urban event in Ross, on the new map. This would be a Level C event so requires an organiser with some experience. John F also pointed

out that we should check whether there are extra rules to be aware of for Level C urban events. Paul had suggested the event at Hartpury could be slightly different, because that is less well-suited to normal events

(c) Caddihoe Chase and VHIs Sept. 2014: We now have a controller (Mike Forrest) for both days. Paul and Pat have broadly agreed on how Day 1 will work. It will be based on the Wenchford picnic area, with parking along the track at Danby, and courses will go across Blakeney Hill. For Day 2, we are not allowed to use the slag heap because it is too unstable in the wet to have vehicles on it. Paul and Pat are going to try to find a workaround so that the slag heap area can still be used for assembly. Suggestions for parking include a nearby track or some factories by the road at Ruspidge. Pat has been using the LIDAR data to get an updated base map (combining two areas), for Bob Teed to use to complete the remapping. It was noted that the VHI is a Level B event so we won't be allowed to print the maps for this ourselves.

(e) Biological restrictions: The event at Flaxley is the first to be subject to biological restrictions, in relation to diseased trees. This was brought up as a reminder that it's useful to plan courses early, so that any restrictions on areas can be worked around.

9. **Mapping report:** Paul had got a bit behind with map printing due to some last minute changes for last Saturday's event, enforced by the National Trust, and also issues with the printer when printing maps for the coming Saturday. However he was able to report that those maps had been printed and he was back on track.

(a) Second Printer: Pat had circulated a list of options for a second printer. He had looked at the top five A4 colour printers on PCAdvisor and also some A3 printers. The benefits of A4 and A3 were discussed, with the conclusion that we would be prepared to buy a Xerox A3 printer as it cost only £200-£250 more than the A4 one we would buy. This small difference was partly due to a £200 cashback deal on the A3 Xerox printer. Before purchasing the printer, Pat will contact the supplier to check that it can print on the Pretex waterproof paper, which we buy through Print5. **Action:** Pat

10. **Equipment Officer's report:** Discussions about a second printer were reported above.
11. **Captain's report:** Greg listed the possible locations for our CompassSport Cup heat on 16th Feb: Kinver Edge, Hay Tor or the New Forest. He proposed Kinver Edge, because it is the closest, and this was agreed upon. We decided to promote car sharing, rather than book a coach, because it is not far away and some people would travel almost as far to the coach pickup point. We could also subsidise the entry fees more if we didn't have to pay for a coach.
12. **Legend Editor's report:** In her first edition of Legend, Gill wants to ask people what they'd like to see in Legend. It was suggested to put a questionnaire on the website but, as people won't necessarily look at that, Gill could ask people in the body of the email with the Legend attachment. Suggestions for contents of Legend included: a section describing the techniques which will be focused on at the next Training events, asking people to say if they would like coaching, and a back page Soapbox. Gill also asked whether it was worth her asking people who get paper copies whether they'd like to transfer to electronic copies. Alan thought it was unlikely that any of them would and observed that it was a small enough number not to be much hassle.
13. **Welfare report:** Nothing to add on welfare. Gill had made a preliminary plan for coaching before the summer events. It was agreed that we would ask people to pay a small fee (e.g. £1) to cover the cost of maps etc.
14. **Development Officer's Report:**
- (a) Gloucester Sports Partnership:** Paul had received an email asking for maps of lots of primary schools. He sent back the two we already had but hasn't heard anything since.
- (b) Attracting runners:** Gill S reported that she is trying to reproduce SLOW's idea of putting on a longer than normal Yellow course for runners. She is organising a 5-10km run with Yellow standard controls, for the Chepstow Harriers in January and will report back on how it goes.
- (c) Military League:** Pat advised, just for information, that those who attend the Army events on Wednesdays were talking about putting on a military league event for the battalion at Innsworth, if a suitable area could be found.
16. **AOB:**
- (a) JK 2014 Relays:** We're primarily responsible for parking. Pat estimated that we would need about 16 people, with only 1 or 2 needing to hang on at the end and not get a relay run.
- (b) Event fees on website:** Pat will put our increased event fees on the website, ready for 2014.
- (c) Fixtures flyer:** Pat asked whether we can take the organisers' names and numbers off the flyer, because otherwise we will have to wait some time for organisers to be arranged for next season, before we can print more flyers. It was agreed

that it's better to get a list out than to wait for organisers to sign up. The fixtures secretary's contact details should be on the flyer anyway, and it always says to check the website before going to an event. It was also suggested that the grid references could be left off, as it might then be possible to fit in two columns of events (and therefore fit the long list of summer and next season's events on). Pat will redesign the flyer and then send it round for comments. **Action:** Pat

(d) NYD score: Lester Hartmann had made no suggestions for charities so we will give the proceeds to the O Foundation.

(e) 18th Jan event: Pat noted that he would be away for this event. John F offered to do the computing in his absence and Carol will be available to do registration.

(f) Blue courses: Greg noted that Blue courses seemed to be getting noticeably shorter and wondered whether anyone knew why.

(g) Alan's Legend: Gary thanked Alan for all he'd done while editor of Legend.

17. Next Meeting: Monday 10th February 2014 at 7:30pm at Oxstalls Campus.

The meeting closed at 9:35pm.