

Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting 9th June 2014

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

1. **Apologies:** Paul Taunton.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the 14th June meeting were accepted.
3. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** None.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Gary had heard from British Orienteering that our current level of first aid cover at events is appropriate. He also hopes to sign off the Clubmark renewal by August.
5. **Secretary's report:** Caroline reported that she had been offered a box of old Legends and other items from NGOC's history, to be maintained as part of a club archive. Gill J noted that Chris James has every copy of Legend in an archive already, so items from that can be borrowed when Caroline puts snippets of history on the website or sends them in for future Legends.
6. **Treasurer's report:** The club will receive an amount of money (thought to be £20) per helper at the JK, as well as a share of the profits. Once we know how much we received we will discuss what to do with it – whether to pass it all on to the helpers or to keep a proportion of it to use to improve the club's activities.
The club will contribute £5 per person towards the £10 entry fee for the Cotswold Way Relay.
7. **Membership Secretary's report:** Simon reported that we have one more new member since his report. He had emailed the new member with a welcome and an invitation to introduce himself to us at any of our events.
Simon also noted that he produces the membership in the old Excel format for two people, but that it comes out around nine times larger. Since Carol had downloaded a free file viewer to open the new format files, and found it to work, Simon will stop sending out the old format.
8. **Events report:**
 - (a) **Major events:** Gill J had a message from Chris, to say that the Events and Competitions committee want to get all major events signed up four years in advance, or at least three years for now. Rather than going round all the regions (not all of which have suitable terrain), they hope to have some clubs organise a major event on another region's terrain. Chris is very happy to receive any suggestions or opinions.
 - (b) **2014-2015 main season:** John C reported that events in the 2014-2015 season mostly had organisers, the training events on 11th October (Minchinhampton) and 31st January (Cranham) being the only ones without. Roger Edwards is organising the Gallophen, with help from John Shea, while Joe Gidley is organising the Ross urban event (with help from Gill Stott).
 - (c) **Chairman's Challenge:** Gary was concerned that he had not thought of somewhere suitable for the barbecue at Danby Lodge. He asked for suggestions. The field by the adventure centre at Symonds Yat was suggested, provided we can move the event to there.
Action: Pat will send John C and Roger a map pointing out the location of the field, after which Roger will ask Amanda at the FC for permission to hold the event at Symonds Yat instead, with assembly in that field.
 - (d) **Fixtures secretary:** John announced that he will be moving to Leominster in July, but is happy to continue as fixtures secretary for the year.
 - (e) **National Trust fees:** Mike Hamilton had replied to John C to say that it is not a national policy. Mike was going to speak to his national NT contact about it and get back to John in a few weeks. The areas thought to be affected are Minchinhampton, Woodchester Park, Standish Woods and Sheepscombe.
Action: John C will reply to Mike and ask whether he's heard anything more, and whether he's been asked the same question by other clubs, as Mike's email was six weeks ago.
Action: Simon will call Dave Armstrong to update him on what's happening. He also offered to check the Ebworth Centre website for other orienteering areas that may be affected and speak to any other affected clubs.
 - (f) **Mini League suggestion:** Paul had sent a message to suggest moving a couple of our Mini League events to Level C in an effort to attract more people. There was a brief discussion of this idea, but with some uncertainty as to what were the extra requirements of Level C over Level D. The discussion was postponed until a future meeting, when Paul could also be present. Carol later looked up the BOF/FC agreement, which states that for Level D events we pay £50 for 26-249 competitors but for Level C events we pay £100 for 26-99 competitors or £150 for 100-249 competitors,

(g) Using other clubs' events in our league: Gary had been trying to get HOC to restart the MADO league, so that we could use some of their events in our league and vice versa, to take pressure off our areas and organisers. This looked unlikely to come to fruition and as John F pointed out it can skew the points scoring if we include one or two events from outside our area, where a different set of people will attend.

(h) Extending the League: Pete Ward had suggested extending the league to cover the calendar year, rather than having effectively two seasons which overlap. There would be around 12 events, with 7 or 8 to count. They could involve some Level C events, or those could be held in addition to the league. Other ad-hoc events (including training events similar to that recently run by Gill Stott and Tom Mills) would be held in addition to the league. Because the forest is less runnable in the summer, we could put on an urban event as part of the league then, and we would be unlikely to hold an event in August because of competing events and holidays. There would still be a weekday evening series in the summer.

Action: A fixtures subcommittee will meet to work out what number of each type of event we want. They will make a potential fixture list for 2015 and see what it looks like. The events we already have scheduled for 2015 can form the beginning of this.

(i) Points awarded to event organisers: Simon suggested that the event organiser gets a duplicate of their best score, for the event that they organise. This seemed fairer than both the old method of giving the organiser 1000 points regardless and the current method of giving the organiser nothing, so it will be implemented next season.

(j) Caddihoe Chase & VHIs: Pat has "all controls" maps for both days from Pete Ward. We have not yet been given permission from the FC to use the Wenchford area, despite chasing them for it. Pat will send the "all controls" maps to the FC and say that we've assumed we can use it.

The website is up and entries are open. The map is almost finished. Some unused areas will not get finished and we need to bear this in mind for future events on the map.

Pat will ask BOK if we can just swap kit (i.e. we lend them kit for the British Champs and they lend us kit for this) rather than exchanging money. Pat has agreement from Andy Creber that we can use his marquee for free if we lend him SI kit and some expertise for his mountain marathon the following weekend. The marquee can't go on hard standing, so we may need to hire one for Day 2. John F had purchased an upgrade of the SI software to OE 2010, including the multi-day add-on for use in the Chasing Sprint. We may still need some extra admin-related things, due to having the relays, chasing start and string course all happening on Day 2.

BOK will help, as the start team for example. Pat will be asking for team leaders very soon. Gill S will ask the Lawsons about organising the string course (possibly for 2 days, or if not then the Starlings would also be good people to ask). The timing of the string course should be shorter than the general start window, for the sake of the volunteers.

Pete Ward had suggested we propose dropping the Black course and asking M21s to run Brown, if we only get a very small number of M21 entries, because they would have very little competition if they were the only runners on the Black and would therefore not get ranking points. This is being proposed to SWOA and some M21s will be asked their view. Gill J will also ask for opinions on Nopesport.

(k) Street Challenge prizes: Given that class sizes aren't very big, we will not give a prize for each class. Instead we'll give a small number of prizes per course (i.e. top man, top woman, etc.)

9. Mapping report:

(a) Urban mapping: Richard Cronin has reportedly been doing lots of urban mapping, providing us with lots of potential for interesting urban events. The fixtures subcommittee will look at how to include these in the new league.

(b) Star College map: Simon reported that the man at Star College was frustrated that we had not been in touch and wanted a contact for someone who could look at the area to get it mapped. He was happy to pay if we weren't interested in using the map ourselves.

Action: Simon will ask Bob Teed if he's happy to do the mapping (and ask him what rate he will charge the college) and then report back to Star College.

10. **Equipment Officer's report:** Pat reported that the tents seemed to be going okay still, after some minor repairs. Roger asked whether we needed new kites but Pat confirmed that he had been able to repair some of the damaged ones so we are okay for now. Of more concern are the SI boxes – there have been some oddities recently and we need to be confident about the battery levels for the Caddihoe Chase.

11. **Captain's report:** Greg reported that Prinknash Bird Park had offered us use of their brand new visitors centre for registration, download, toilets and catering at the Gallophen. They were keen to do this, provided we advertise it as a joint event with the bird park to encourage people to go to the park. Orienteers will get half price entry to the park that day.

12. **Legend Editor's report:**

(a) Emails to members: Gill reminded people that if they have something they want everyone to see, they can ask her and she can quickly and easily send it on to club members (so long as we don't bombard them with too many emails).

(b) July Legend: Gill asked for any more contributions for the July Legend. Pat said he'll write something about the Caddihoe Chase and Caroline offered to write a report on her experience in an upcoming running event with an orienteering element.

(c) Cotswold Way Relay: Any supporters are very welcome, to help with things like driving or being on route with drinks and encouragement.

(d) Chepstow event: Although this is a BOK-organised event, the map is an NGOC map being lent to BOK for the day. There is also potential to extend the map into other interesting parts of Chepstow. We should also make sure our fixtures lists are available at the event.

13. Welfare report: Nothing to add.

14. Development Officer's Report:

(a) Coaching: Gill J had heard nothing more about a Level 2 course being organised. She also commented that although the coaching at summer Saturday events had worked well last year, organising training days like the one by Gill Stott and Tom Mills seemed like the better way to go now. Gill S reported that Tom had been talking of organising another training day at the Minchinhampton training event in October, which would be good given the current lack of organiser for it.

Action: Gill S will ask Tom about the potential training event at Minchinhampton.

(b) Robinswood Hill POC: Pat reported that the ranger was very keen on having a POC at Robinswood Hill and asked whether anyone would be happy to plan this. Greg offered to take this on at a later date and thought we had LIDAR data for the area.

15. SWOA Committee Feedback: None

16. AOB:

(a) Use of The Pludds for one-off event: Gary had offered to put on a small one-off event for a special needs group. He hoped to use The Pludds as it was local to the group, if BOK are happy with him using their map.

Action: Gary will ask Alan Honey of BOK whether this is okay.

(b) Controlling at Level D events: Last year we agreed to have an informal controller (aka "adviser") for each League event, but we may have let this slip. The level of controlling required was discussed. Although it may be better to ask someone just to check a few isolated controls and not compromise their run, we can't afford to only check controls we know might be wrong, and there is always someone around who is compromised anyway. John F suggested that we add the name of each event's "adviser" to the fixtures list on the website, to make it clearer that every event needs one. This suggestion was agreed.

Action: Gary will also email the assigned organisers of events to say that we're doing this, so that they remember to ask for an adviser.

(c) CompassSport articles: There were some interesting articles about Health and Safety in the latest edition, which should serve to remind us of the importance of considering H&S issues when planning events.

(d) Fixtures lists: Pat has no printed fixtures lists left so will get another 200 or so printed.

(e) Organising a Gallophen: Greg asked whether there is a list of what needs doing to organise a Gallophen, as Roger Edwards is a novice organiser. Roger C responded that he is happy to be an adviser, though he doesn't have a list as such and thought it was mostly the same things as for a League event (given that toilets etc are already provided this time). One additional thing to do is to arrange for the BOK first aid team to come.

(f) Donation to Orienteering Foundation: Carol noted that we had planned to make a donation to the Orienteering Foundation, from the New Years Day event entries. Since that event had been cancelled, she suggested making a donation of £100 from the End of Season event instead. This was agreed.

(g) Post-meeting additions: After the meeting, due to lack of time during the meeting, Carol suggested the prizes to award for the Mini League, as well as proposing we don't enter the Cheltenham Circular Challenge because there is no team relay this year. Both proposals were agreed on by the committee.

- 17. Next Meeting:** Monday 1st September 2014 at 7:30pm at Oxstalls Campus.
AGM Date: Monday 13th October 2014 (to be held at Oxstalls Campus)

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.