

Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting 9th February 2015

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

1. **Apologies:** Paul Taunton, Pat MacLeod, John Coleman.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the 8th December meeting were accepted.
3. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** None.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Gary reported that the new Clubmark criteria are now workable, now that the number of coaching events needed has been reduced. John F noted that it seems strange asking clubs to put 12 coaching events on when some clubs put on fewer than 12 normal events, and wondered why there's no stipulation on the number of events. It was also observed that it seems unfair to expect small clubs to put on the same number of coaching events as large clubs. Gill S suggested that we ask British Orienteering for some money and/or help to achieve this, (e.g. someone come to run some coaching sessions) since we're only a small club. Gill also observed that Mark Saunders always says NGOC is welcome at coaching events he puts on in the forest and maybe we could help with some of those and they count towards our total too. Roger also thought we could do some joint SWOA sessions.
Action: Gary will circulate the information Craig sends him, about what we need to do to renew. He will also reply to Craig to check (a) what happens if we don't meet the criteria and (b) what constitutes a coaching event.
5. **Secretary's report:**
 - (a) **Yvette Baker Trophy:** Caroline asked whether people thought we had any juniors who would be interested in forming a team for the Yvette Baker Trophy competition, which has its qualifier in March, 2 hours south of Gloucester. It was felt that we should be in a position to enter next year, as we are gaining more interested juniors but the majority are not yet experienced enough that they would be happy running the course for their age group or travelling a long way to do so.
 - (b) **Old maps for NGOC archive:** Carol suggested that Ian Stirrups, who had previously stored NGOC's maps, may have old maps which could go in the archive. He had apparently offered them for printing on the back of, so if he still has them he would likely be keen for them to go into the archive.
Action: Carol will pass Ian's contact details to Caroline, who will get in touch to ask about the maps.
6. **Treasurer's report:**
 - (a) **JK 2014 help:** Carol had been told that day that the club should expect to receive around £450 for our help at the JK. A further £560 for the helpers will be offered to the helpers themselves, in recognition of their efforts.
 - (b) **Charity donation:** A small sum of cash was found on the track at the Bixslade event last year. Since nobody has claimed it, Carol suggested we donate it to charity. It will be donated to the Alzheimer's Society.
7. **Membership Secretary's report:** We are up to 134 members and 33 lapsed. Three family groups are still outstanding. It was uncertain whether juniors in family groups counted towards the junior total, so Simon will check this.
8. **Events:**
 - (a) **National Star College and University of Gloucestershire:** We will replace the Star College with the Park campus, for the evening event on 13th August. This is because the college had decided to charge us a large amount, as well as restricting the already small area, making the event unfeasible. Part of the reason for choosing the Park campus is that NGOC and the University are looking to improve our partnership and encourage those at the university to participate in the sport. Since August is outside term time, we will also hold our October training event at Park campus.
Action: Gary will arrange permissions for both these events
 - (b) **Fixtures subcommittee:** Steve Robinson will soon be taking over from John C. Gary had asked Steve to arrange a fixtures subcommittee meeting, which will include discussion on holding the Southern Night Championships the night before an NGOC/BOK Galloper in November.
 - (c) **SWOA Anniversary event:** This has been moved to 22nd November, to avoid a clash. Gary is organising the NGOC event and Joe Gidley is planning it. Roger wondered whether BOK would like to host the event jointly, especially since we already have the venue (Ellwood Football Club and Parkend) arranged. It was also suggested we could move our WNL event the previous weekend to 21st November, to save resources.
Action: Roger will ask BOK whether they would like to host this jointly.

(d) Crickley Hill Training event: Gill S reported that Scott Johnson had offered to plan the Green and Yellow courses for the event, but can't do everything. Greg offered to put the controls out on the day. Tom Mills can also help on the day, as could Gary and Hils. Carol asked whether a reduced parking charge had been agreed, as in previous years. Gill S is meeting with Tom soon, to plan activities, and may be joined by Gill J.

Action: Gill S will check the parking charge arrangement with John C.

(e) Triple Gloucester: Roger had circulated a report in advance. There have been 12 entries so far. Reduced helper rates will be achieved by giving cash back afterwards, rather than through Fabian4. BOK have asked for free entry for their helpers. They have also asked for helpers for the British Championships in return, especially for the relay day.

Action: Gill S will send Hils a list of numbers needed for each task, so that a Google spreadsheet can be created for people to sign up to what they want to do and when.

(f) Splitting up the year with BOK: Roger will contact Alan Honey about Richard's idea of "splitting up the year with BOK".

9. Mapping:

(a) Maps for printing: Paul's report had highlighted that he needs to receive maps for printing at least two weeks before an event.

Action: Gill S will send out an email to remind people about the map printing deadline.

(b) Purple Pen: It was agreed to donate £25 per year to Purple Pen, as we use it so much.

(c) Robinswood: Pat had wondered whether Scott could look at the Robinswood map, having shown a keen interest in trying some mapping. Gill S will send him the current map to use as a base, but it might be too much for a short deadline. Gill S and Sheila are going to look at the area to see how much needs doing, to see if it is even a likely possibility for Sheila's event in the summer.

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

11. Captain's report: Greg confirmed that we are going to Eastnor for our CompassSport Cup heat.

12. Legend Editor's report: Gill gave some more detail on the newsletter award from CompassSport magazine, which we had been awarded again. Our award was for diverse content this time (rather than for humour, like last year). Simon's photo from Macchu Pichu and Chris Johnson's article about shoes are both being reproduced in CompassSport. It was also commented that Greg's article on Splitsbrowser was useful, as many people newer to the sport didn't know things like that.

13. Welfare report: Gill reported that the Major Events Conference will now be on the weekend of the Caddihoe Chase (rather than the date of the Gorsley Photo O), so there is no need to rearrange our fixtures. She had also contacted the police about the Newent event and they were happy

13. Development Officer's Report: Any items related to Development are covered in other sections.

14. Volunteer Coordinator's Report: Hils asked for the position on offering sweeteners, and the phrase "discounted rate for helpers" was suggested. There was also some confusion over the requirement for event organizers to have attended an Event Safety Workshop. The current understanding is that people should go on one, but since not many courses have been run, it is not yet enforced.

Action: Caroline will send Hils the list of attendees for the Controllers course.

15. SWOA Committee Feedback: None.

16. AOB:

(a) Publicity via meetup.com: Simon reported that NGOC's meetup group had 45 members. Four of them had officially attended one of our events, though they had all brought people with them. Since the locations are visible whether a group member or not, there may also have been other attendees.

(b) Publicity via Facebook: Gill S will post about Saturday's event, on the NGOC group, making it clear that beginners are expected, and saying what to wear. She commented that it is also useful to join other clubs' groups or pages and post our events on there. The same could work with running clubs. Caroline highlighted the new Facebook group on the topic of publicity in orienteering, where different clubs have shared what has worked and what has not worked, with regard to publicising their events, both through Facebook and elsewhere. She plans to analyse the material there to make suggestions for how we could publicise some of our events, such as the summer series. Gill S noted that we still need manageable

numbers for our training events as we're still working out how to manage the numbers, so big publicity efforts may be better saved for the future.

(c) Map legends: Greg highlighted that we need to make sure we have copies of the map legend available at all events, including training events. Gary suggested printing it on the back of the map, along with control description meanings.

(d) OCAD: Gill S is going to Chris Johnson's mapping group on Thursday, to learn more about OCAD.

(e) Course between Orange and Green: Caroline commented that it is difficult to advise an adult newcomer which course to run, at their first few events. Although they would probably run Orange at their first event, it may not take them long. At a subsequent event, they might naturally suit a Light Green (TD4) course, but are instead faced with a significant gap between Orange and Green. The same will be true of youngsters who are progressing beyond TD3. We can put on so many events because we do not have many courses and so one person can plan and organise the whole event, but this may no longer be true if we were to add a Light Green. Greg had suggested tacking a few controls onto the Orange to make a Red course, which could help to satisfy the needs of adult newcomers and especially runners who are either not, or not yet, interested in the more difficult navigation. There was concern about having to plan for an extension of the Orange course and having an extra course to print. Gary was keen to leave the League events as they are for now, building it into training first (but not for the next few events, to see how they go first). Greg commented that it would probably be less work to add a Red course to a League event, by adding a few controls to an Orange, than to add a third entire course to a Training event.

(f) Website: Hils asked how she should get a volunteers@ngoc.org.uk email address and was advised to ask Eddie McLarnon, who had set them up for others. Hils had also noticed her and Gill Stott's photos were not on the website. She will email Pat to get them added.

(g) Following up issues: John F had observed that sometimes an issue can get discussed at the time but not then be followed up properly. He gave as an example the poor print quality at the Bixslade event last year, an issue which is hopefully now fixed by Paul's print driver changes, but which had fallen by the wayside for a long time. A Google spreadsheet was suggested, so that anyone can add suggestions (which, for example, can include problems or new ideas of things we could try out). The committee though this was a good idea and John will think more about how this could be designed.

17. Next Committee Meeting: Monday 13th April 2015 at 7:30pm at Oxstalls Campus.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.