

Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting 13th April 2015

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

1. **Apologies:** Paul Taunton
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the 9th February meeting were accepted.
3. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:**

Carol reported that we still do not have the club contribution from last year's JK.
Hilary noted that the venue still needs updating on the website, for the National Star event and the October Training event (both to be held at Park Campus).
Gill J reported that they had had to change the date of the Gorsley event from 12th September to 3rd October.
Our bid for the Southern Night Championships was not accepted.
4. **Chairman's Report:** On behalf of the club, Gary welcomed Steve Robinson to the committee and thanked John C for all his work as Fixtures Secretary.
5. **Secretary's report:** Caroline highlighted the enquiry from Huntley school about getting orienteering set up there. Gill S offered to ask Bob on Wednesday whether he'd been able to consider mapping the school. The idea of putting on an event for Year 6 at the cluster of schools was discussed and Gill S and Gary were both happy to help with this, as was Caroline.
Action: Caroline will ask the contact at Huntley school whether they'd had any more thoughts on dates and will let Gary and Gill know the outcome.
6. **Treasurer's report:** Carol reported that the League event on Saturday resulted in almost £700 in entry fees, with 154 entries – a very good turnout.
7. **Membership Secretary's report:** Simon was aware that a few people (that we know of) at each event have come because of Meetup.com.
- 8.1 **Events report:**
 - (a) **British Sprint and Middle Champs 2018:** SWOA will be hosting this event and have asked clubs to consider and send in any suggestions for venues or planners. Possible venues were discussed, chiefly Knockalls, Cleeve Hill and Coopers Hill, though there was concern about finding enough parking near to these areas. Parking in the industrial estate in Lydney then using buses was suggested. The fixtures subcommittee will discuss this further.
 - (b) **SWOA Fixtures Bulletin:** Several major events required bids from clubs. The CSC qualifier and final in 2017 and Southern Champs in 2019 were mentioned and will be discussed further by the fixtures subcommittee.
- 8.2 **Triple Gloucester report:**
 - (a) **Entries:** are now in the 80s for each day. Roger will be taking fliers to the British Champs.
Action: Roger will send Hils an email to send out to members, reminding them of the closing date, and to sign up to help.
 - (b) **Helpers:** Hils later asked whether the team leaders would be contacting their helpers, and they will.
 - (c) **Start times on Sunday:** The first train from Swindon arrives in Gloucester at 10:44am, so start times cannot really finish before then. Roger is now thinking of a start window of 9:30 – 11:30, but recommending people to come earlier rather than later, for a less busy run.
 - (d) **Prizes and certificates:** SWOA do not provide mementos for the Middle Distance Champs, but say that we must provide certificates. Roger had found it costs around £30-40 for certificates, which sounded surprisingly high. John F will ask someone at work about likely costs and Gill J will show Roger a certificate from the Caddihoe which looked good but inexpensive. It was decided not to provide mementos.
9. **Mapping report:** Nothing to report.
10. **Equipment Officer's report:**
 - (a) **Tents:** Our current tents are 10 years old and have served us well but are becoming increasingly time-consuming to repair. Pat had researched what is available to replace them with and found that the only sensible options were some newer tents from the same company (as shown in the report). It was decided to purchase a "sports shelter" tent and see how it is.

They are currently on a very good offer. This tent has a panel you can send away to get printed.

(b) Clocks: Pat was obtaining quotes for a couple of Kickstart clocks for the start, and expects them to be £300. John F pointed out that such clocks aren't needed for a punching start. We will instead look at buying a large digital clock (which shows seconds).

11. Captain's report: Greg is in his busy season, with teams being entered for the JK, British and Harvester Relays. He is chasing a couple more people for the British Relays and other suggestions of possible people were made. He reported that the Harvester and Cotswold Way Relay are on the same weekend and after asking people's opinions had decided we'd try to enter at least one team in each of these.

12. Legend Editor's report:

(a) April Legend: Gill had hoped to get it finished this week, in plenty of time for the Triple Gloucester. Greg would like to write about the British Relays after this weekend, so it will wait until after that.

(b) Facebook: Gill has been putting our events on other clubs' pages. It only takes a minute so she's happy to do it for other events. She'll post a message about the closing date for the Triple Gloucester.

(c) Chepstow map: Gill has got an extension of the urban map.

13. Welfare report: Gill had had an interesting conversation with someone who said we need to be careful about people taking inappropriate photographs. She also noted that Kyla's youngsters now appear in the results as Wye Ventures, rather than (the incorrect) WYE.

14. Development Officer's Report: Nothing to add.

15. Volunteer Coordinator's report:

(a) Triple Gloucester: Hils had been working on the helpers spreadsheet but thought it would require more prompting of people to get the gaps filled up.

(b) Event Safety Workshop: Greg, Tom Mills and Pete Ward will all be attending an Event Safety Workshop, to be held on 2nd June, run by Katy Dyer. It would have to start at 7:30 if held in Gloucester as Pete couldn't get there before then (so it could be held earlier if nearer him). A projector will be needed. SWOA will give money towards a venue and materials. Once arranged, we will advertise the workshop to others.

16. SWOA Committee Feedback: None

17. AOB:

(a) Committee dinner: It was suggested that the committee goes for a meal together, purely as a social event. This would be useful to trial such an idea before trying it club-wide. It should be held fairly centrally so probably around Gloucester. The George at Birdlip was suggested and was popular.

(b) Feedback from training event: Caroline reported that the Torquay Boys Grammar School had asked her to pass on their appreciation for the club allowing them use of the OCAD files of the new maps from the Caddihoe Chase event. Their training weekend was a great success.

(c) Newent League event: Gill J mentioned that planning is going very well and that a crossing patrol will be required.

(d) Clubmark: Gill S asked whether this got sorted in the end. She had also thought that the SWOA Anniversary event could count as a coaching event. Gill J replied that she'd spoken to Craig and he was very impressed with what we'd sent in and we were well ahead of the game. All he needed now was the hard evidence to prove what we'd said.

(e) Informal advisers: Greg brought up this good idea, which had fallen by the wayside. He had thought about it again after hearing an opinion that our League events were often "safe", for example using only controls on the edge of an intricate area, rather than in the middle. It had been suggested that people played it safe because they didn't have a controller to check their controls. Greg asked if we could enforce having an informal adviser. Pat suggested that is enough people put their name in a hat, we can allocate an adviser to each event, from the pool (checking that they are available), and then the fixtures secretary doesn't need to go and find one for each event. The adviser should advise on the event as a whole, check the courses early and should check the tags, but doesn't need to visit every control on the day. Pat commented that we'll need to make sure it's people who have planned enough before, and if not enough people offer to be in the pool we should target suitable people.

Action: Hils will send an email to the planners of the last 2 or 3 years of events, saying what we're looking for, and asking whether they'd be happy to be in the pool. This should not use Bcc, so that they know it's a targeted list.

(f) Website: Pat reported that the website has poor mobile compatibility. He asked whether it mattered and whether we should tie in more closely with social media, like other websites do. He has asked Eddie to try and find a Wordpress theme which gives us these kinds of facilities but is also simple to maintain.

(g) Lydney summer evening event: Pat noted that there is no organiser for this and the fixtures subcommittee will consider this.

(h) British Trail O Champs: Pat highlighted that anyone is welcome to help at the Trail O on Saturday afternoon, from 2pm.

18. Next Meeting: Monday 8th June 2015 at 7:30pm at Oxstalls Campus.

The meeting closed at 9:20pm.