

Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting 7th September 2015

Present: Greg Best, Roger Coe, Carol Stewart, Gary Wakerley, Caroline Craig, Simon Denman, Steve Robinson.

1. **Apologies:** Gill Stott, Pat McLeod, Gill James, Paul Taunton, John Fallows.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the 8th June meeting were accepted.
3. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** Simon highlighted that some time ago it had been agreed to give organisers of league events a score for that event, equal to the maximum of their other counting scores at the end of the season. Although this had not been implemented yet, John has told Simon he will put an asterisk in for these scores, as a reminder that they will be added at the end of the season.
4. **Chairman's Report:** For the SWOA anniversary event, Gary noted that although other SWOA clubs will have their own events, it is worth publicising our event to SWOC and WMOA clubs. The orienteering part of the event will be free but we will ask people to pay for the buffet. SWOA had originally suggested inviting dignitaries, something which Gary will think about. The courses offered will be the same as at a league event. It was decided not to have a string course but something different like Nifty Numbers could work.
5. **Secretary's report:**
 - (a) **Running shop discounts:** Caroline had found a simple text link to runningnuts.com on another club's links page, with a discount code, so was confident that a simple link on our links page would be sufficient. She will add this. Gary highlighted that British Orienteering had agreed an arrangement with Up and Running which gives members a discount. It was observed that member discounts would be a good thing to add to the email to new members.
 - (b) **AGM:** Caroline reported that the larger room of TC218A&B had been booked for our AGM but that we'd been asked to let them know if we didn't need that size room. It was decided that TC218A week be big enough. We decided not to have a speaker, though it was thought that a separate social evening with a speaker and buffet would be a good idea. Greg knows an Antarctic explorer who gives talks.
6. **Treasurer's report:** Carol had heard back from Printerbase, to say that the second invoice was for information only. Although the Chairman's Challenge cost us quite a bit, it was a good thing to do.
7. **Membership Secretary's report:** No new members since last time.
8. **Events:**
 - (a) **2015-16 fixtures:** The subcommittee had met at the end of June to discuss fixtures and Steve passed round the list. Now is the time to ask for volunteers, so a hard copy of the list should go up at Sheepscombe for people to sign up, and similarly at the AGM.

Tom Mills had suggested moving the 24th Oct training event from Highmeadow to Mallards Pike, using the tagged controls from his Harris Relays this Wednesday. An organiser is still needed. Tom can't do this but is happy to mentor or to help find such a planner.

Action: Caroline will change the training event location on the website and add a post to ask people to volunteer to organise events.

Action: Steve will ask Tom if he has any ideas for an organiser for the training event.

Action: Steve will ask Gill S to email members asking for volunteers to organise the remaining fixtures.
 - (b) **Informal advisers:** Greg suggested that rather than mentors always being more experienced planners, when the planner is very experienced the mentor could be less experienced (at planning, but still very experienced at orienteering). They would then have more experience and maybe be happier to plan in future. Similarly, some experienced orienteers may not have time to commit to planning but could do the advisory role.
 - (c) **New league format:** The 12 month format seems to be working as people are still coming to events.
 - (d) **Chairman's Challenge:** This was not on the 2015-16 fixture list. Gary suggested doing a training weekend (e.g. in Wales) with training on the Saturday, a barbecue on the Saturday night and the Chairman's Challenge on the Sunday.
 - (e) **Harvester bid:** Richard is no longer keen to plan, now that he lives in Newport (with the event on Cleeve Hill). We need to think of a planner who is experienced and has done relays before. Pete Ward and Paul Taunton were suggested,

though it could be too far for them. We will bid for the event so long as we have a planner lined up. We could do a day event the following day, using the same control sites, maybe with a different planner.

The event requires one very long relay leg (of about 13km) so we would want the gorse to be up to date. As detailed in his report, Greg had found an aerial photo for sale which would be very useful. He could probably do the updates.

Action: Gary will email Pete and/or Paul about possibly planning the Harvester.

Action: Greg will buy the aerial photo and the club will reimburse him.

(f) Future use of Prinknash Abbey parking: Roger noted that he'd seen an article about planning permission for houses here, which may affect it as a place for parking.

9. Mapping: Nothing to add.

10. Equipment Officer's report: Pat and John intend to upgrade the firmware in our SI boxes so that people with contactless SI cards can still punch.

11. Captain's report:

(a) Sheepscombe League event: The field we regularly used for parking at Cranham until a few years ago has some DEFRA protection on it so that they must leave it fallow, which means we can't use it for parking. The National Trust's Facebook account posted about the event last Friday and will do so again the following two Fridays.

(b) Painswick or Leckhampton mapping: Greg's report had asked which should be his next mapping project. Gary preferred to have new areas. There was some discussion on where to park at Leckhampton and exactly how much of it is very steep.

(c) May Hill: Greg had been emailed by the owner of a brewery next to May Hill, inviting us to visit the brewery before, during or after events. Greg had replied to say that we don't have May Hill mapped (because of a lack of parking). The brewery is the wrong side of the A40 for parking.

12. Legend Editor's report: Nothing to add.

13. Welfare report: Gary highlighted that O Safe on the British Orienteering website is worth reading, to be aware of.

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

15. Volunteer Coordinator's report: Sheila is probably going to take up this role in around 6 months.

16. SWOA Committee Feedback: None.

17. AOB:

(a) POCs: Paul had asked that we make sure we have at least one functioning POC in the Forest of Dean that we can point people towards. The FC had not got back to Gary or Bob when in touch about Highmeadow last November. Carol thought there may have been a course at Lightning Tree Hill at some point, though it was thought this was now out of use. Greg suggested we could do one jointly with BOK at New Beechenhurst, particularly with there being a visitors centre there.

Action: Gary will chase the FC up about Highmeadow.

(b) Use of colleges and similar places for events: It was concluded that we should be especially wary and communicate everything from the start, before the planner gets involved. This would mean asking them all the possible questions that have ever caused problems in the past, such as "Do you let out your land to farmers or for shooting?"

(c) Association and Club Conference: Chris and Gill are busy so we are hoping some other representatives will go.

(d) Website hosting: Carol highlighted that Eddie pays to renew our website hosting using his own credit card, which isn't idea. It is apparently possible to use PayPal but our PayPal is nominally linked to our back account and we'd need to make a payment from our account to PayPal each time, which we can't do until we're banking online. Carol will continue to investigate this.

(e) OS copyright notice: Greg had noticed, from Mike's e-News, that we're not doing the right thing with regard to OS copyright notices on LIDAR maps. Just using an OS grid reference means we need to put an OS copyright notice on, event

thought the map is LIDAR-based. We should make sure Paul knows this, especially when chopping smaller parts from bigger maps.

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

The meeting closed at 9pm.