

Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting 13th June 2016

Present: Greg Best, Roger Coe, Carol Stewart, Gary Wakerley, Caroline Craig, Pat MacLeod, Paul Taunton, Gill James.

1. **Apologies:** John Fallows, Simon Denman
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the 18th April meeting were accepted.
3. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** None.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Gary reported that MADO have agreed that we can use some of their areas next year (although they also have access issues). He was keen to get the general idea of next year's fixtures to the Forestry Commission for them to say if they foresee any problems. Roger noted that he usually does that anyway. He also reported that the Army events are also having access issues, though as the Army are exempt from environmental access restrictions, they are dealing with it by not allowing civilians at their events. Pat had made the changes to this year's League fixtures on the website and Roger will renumber them in British Orienteering's database.
5. **Secretary's report:** Gill J had not heard from Pete about Event Safety Workshops. Gary will get in touch with him. Roger noted that someone had been to a second workshop and still found it useful, so perhaps we should do that too (once we have had the necessary people attend).
6. **Treasurer's report:** Carol had since paid the annual insurance (against loss of equipment), costing £320. It was unclear whether Andy Creber's tent (worth £800) was covered by our insurance, so Carol will ask.
7. **Membership Secretary's report:** Nothing to report.
8. **Events:**
 - (a) **2017 fixtures:** The fixtures subcommittee had met to plan fixtures, but there was no report. Steve had taken notes but nobody had heard from him so this could not be discussed properly.
 - (b) **2017 Gallophen:** A key issue with 2017 fixtures is the timing (and location) of the Gallophen, for which we had agreed to do a joint Double Gloucester style event with BOK. We need to work this out before August, in order to get the area sorted before May.
 - (c) **Harvester:** Paul and Pat had decided that people should just contact the farmer directly if they want to camp on the Friday night. Pat had asked Mike Hamilton how to get a message to all club captains and Mike was on the case. Paul will ask Compass Point whether we can buy a voucher (for a slight discount) to offer as the prize for the quiz, but only decide the final amount on the day. It was thought the low entry numbers were partly due to clashes.
 - (d) **Croeso:** Pat reported that we have enough people now (though mostly from other clubs). He still needs help for the Saturday and the evening of Day 1 (the Sunday).
9. **Mapping:** Nothing to report.
10. **Equipment Officer's report:** Pat reported that he and Bob had replaced two posts at the Christchurch POC. They also had agreement for them to put QR codes on. The contact at Christchurch is very enthusiastic but unfortunately had to miss their meeting, so they will have to meet again to discuss the package.
11. **Captain's report:**
 - (a) **Harvester teams:** Greg had filled all five teams, though one person had since dropped out.
 - (b) **Witcombe Woods:** Greg is going to map the eastern end and hopes they will give us permission to run there. Now that we can only use the middle part of Cranham (owned by Natural England) in mid winter, the addition of this area should give us a large enough area available from the campsite end of Cranham. It should also allow us to join that end with Coopers Hill (though this would have a narrow section in the middle).
12. **Legend Editor:** Gill had only had two responses to her email asking for Legend articles, so didn't feel she could create another Legend yet. Another discussion of the continuation of Legend was had, including whether it should move online. However, articles are better suited to the magazine format. It was suggested that a weekly email could be used for smaller updates and the Legend for longer articles. Weekly is too frequent for an email, as there wouldn't be much to add and people would stop reading it. Gill S pointed out that a regular email could contain brief summaries and pictures, with a link for people to click to get to the full article on the website. There was some concern that an online forum-style Legend or

regular email may struggle to get enough contributions, just like Legend. Paul suggested that we could continue Legend but publish it less often, allowing more time for articles to accumulate. Pat suggested that we try and get people who go to non-local events to write about them. Gary suggested putting people's event reports on a new page on the website, but just like Legend, this requires people to write them. Gill S noted that it's really informative for people to read someone else's write-up and analysis of a big mistake. Gill J will post something on Facebook, asking people to write articles for Legend. Paul pointed out that a personalised approach always works better than a blanket request. Gill S needs suggestions for people to target.

13. **Welfare report:** We need to add O Safe to our constitution, at the AGM.
14. **Development Officer's Report:** Covered in Equipment Officer's report.
15. **Volunteer Coordinator's Report:** Chris and Gill will be our club representatives at the Club and Association conference, as in previous years. Gill had had no luck finding a replacement.
16. **SWOA Committee Feedback:** SWOA are encouraging clubs to put on more Level C events in place of Level D events. This gives more opportunities for giving officials experience planning, organising or controlling a higher level of event. To make our Gloucester League event a Level C, we'll need to provide toilets. The intention is currently to direct people towards the public toilets in the docks area, which is over the river from the council car park where we are parking. Gary also suggested another option could be to ask a café nearby, if there is one closer.
17. **AOB:**
 - (a) **POC Portal:** We don't currently really manage our POCS. We can't track usage at Crickley Hill because the web download is free. Julian, the warden, has previously said it is well used. We can probably track usage at Christchurch, when it's back up and running. Pat will set up the Christchurch POC on the MOBO website, where we can track the number of downloads and people can upload results. Caroline will be the POC Manager for the POC Portal.
 - (b) **POC publicity:** Pat and others are still trying to develop a package for the Christchurch POC, and need to discuss costs. Greg suggested looking at publicity material for other POCs. Greg wondered whether we could link it to geocaching. Gill S highlighted that the Wye Valley Review and the Monmouthshire Beacon often print reports on running events, with pictures, so maybe we should try and get something in there when we have something nearby. However, the Forest of Dean Review has not published things we've sent.
 - (c) **Chairman's Challenge:** This will be held at Elton Maize Maze, so we need to let them know the format. Gary had wondered about a relay but was no longer keen on that in the maze. His latest idea was to have a normal course plus four wildcard controls that people have to visit, but can visit at any time during the course. There would be penalties if someone didn't get all four. People liked this idea. We'll do it in the evening with a barbecue again, but the barbecue will be after the running this time. The barbecue can't be too late, so that the maze employees don't have to stay too late. We won't fund the barbecue this year.
 - (d) **Harvester helpers:** As the Harvester is a team entry event, we will offer a refund of the £5 subsidised entry fee to helpers who run. Non-running helpers will be offered a free run at the next event they attend, instead of at the Harvester.
18. **Next Committee Meeting:** Monday 12th September 2016 at 7:30pm at Oxstalls Campus.
AGM: 17th October at Oxstalls Campus.

The meeting closed at 9pm.