

## Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**Present:** Greg Best, Carol Stewart, Gary Wakerley, Caroline Craig, John Fallows, Simon Denman, Paul Taunton, Judith Austerberry, Pat MacLeod, Stephen Robinson, Richard Cronin, Richard Purkis.

1. **Apologies:** Gill James, Ashleigh Denman.  
Ashleigh was unable to attend, having broken her leg at the league event on Saturday. The committee wish her a speedy recovery.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the 12th September meeting were accepted, subject to a correction in 17(d), where it was stated that Richard had created a list of events in the first half of 2016, for the club championships. This should be corrected to 2017.
3. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** None.
4. **Chairman's Report:** There was a discussion of how to overcome the lack of volunteers to be chairman. Suggestions included rotating chairing of meetings around the committee or looking for a vice chair to share the work with Gary. It was decided to accept Gary's offer to continue as a temporary chairman for the next few months, while we actively look for a replacement.
5. **Secretary's report:** Caroline asked for opinions on the Retro Rocket catering caravan, as detailed in her report. It was noted that having caterers on FC land is complicated, since we have agreed with the FC that we will give Sylvia first refusal. It seems unlikely to be worth it for the Retro Rocket, especially for our Level D events. It also adds extra complication for event organisers, if they have to consider the caravan getting along forest tracks to the assembly and having room to park. It would probably only be worth it for Gallopens, although we still need to ask Sylvia first. It was noted that the tea tent works quite well and other clubs seem to think it's a great idea.  
**Action:** Caroline will reply to the owner of the Retro Rocket, explaining the size of our events and the complications.
6. **Treasurer's report:** Carol noted that we need a named chairman to sign cheques.
  - (a) **Club jackets:** Carol had reported paying Trimtex for the latest club tops, which prompted Pat to ask whether there are any UK suppliers for club jackets, to save on costs. Judith had surveyed UK clubs and concluded that everyone gets jackets from Scandinavian/Baltic countries. Scimitar (based in Worcester) might be able to do suitable jackets, although their sample cycling jackets were deemed to be too heavy and look less professional. Judith is checking with them and asking for pictures, as well as looking for other places. Pat suggested Kudos in Bulwark, Chepstow.
  - (b) **League prizes:** Carol suggested giving vouchers to Yellow course winners this year, as well as giving certificates to others on Yellow. This was agreed. The prizes will all be awarded at the New Years Day event.  
**Action:** Judith will notify winners (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed competitors) in advance, so that they can say whether they'll be at the NYD event to receive their prize.
  - (c) **Harvester subsidy:** Christine Vince had asked whether we wanted money from SWOA, to subsidise loss from the Harvester. As the loss on the weekend was so small, we see no need for this.
7. **Membership Secretary's report:**
  - (a) **Volunteer coordinator:** Simon commented that it is a big overhead for event organisers to get helpers and that they inevitably go to the visible faces. He thought it might work better if done centrally. Simon volunteered to take on this part of the Volunteer Coordinator role for about 3 months, to see how it goes. The committee thanked Simon and accepted his offer. Paul also advised that calling people works better than emailing them, as it is easy to ignore or forget an email.
  - (b) **Mail Chimp:** Richard C asked whether the committee were happy with the idea of using Mail Chimp. It will be free to use and will remove the risk of forgetting to use the Bcc field. It doesn't allow sending of attachments but a link to the item online can be included instead. It is a legal requirement to include a postal address and Gary suggested using his, as chairman. Richard C will do some further testing and will email all members using the old method, to tell them to make sure our Mail Chimp emails do not go to the spam folder. We will then use Mail Chimp for all emails.
8. **Events:**
  - (a) **Larger events for SWOA:** Steve reported that SWOA will soon be looking for clubs to put on larger events in 2018-19, such as the SW Champs and Caddihoe Chase. Richard C suggested the Southern Night Champs. Steve warned that we should wait to see how the FC issue with night events is resolved, first.
  - (b) **Weekend of events in 2018:** We could team up with SWOA and use Highmeadow / Headless Hill and some Welsh hillside. Alternatively, we could team up with HOC and use Hereford for a sprint event as part of the weekend. There

seemed little need to make these Level B events, since the Triple Gloucester was such a success at Level C. The Bank Holiday at the end of May was suggested, since the Tamar Triple would not be very close in terms of travel time. However, May/June leads to more issues with nesting etc.

**Action:** Steve will look at the calendar and suggest possible dates. A Bank Holiday or a weekend of a school holiday is better than a normal weekend.

**Action:** Gary will ask SWOC and HOC to see whether they are keen to join us.

**(c) 2017 fixtures:**

Pat urgently needs a list of fixtures, so that he can put them on the website. Steve noted that the only change since a previous list was to change WNL 3 to Painswick, so the list in the British Orienteering database was thought to be correct.

**Action:** Steve will send the list of fixtures to Pat.

**(d) BOK query about using Headless Hill and Moseley Green:**

For Headless Hill, their proposed event has no embargo and so we are happy for them to use the updated map, though if we've fully done the map then our artwork should be on it. We also wouldn't expect them to pay for it. For Moseley Green, there is a 2 year embargo for the Southern Champs, so we would be unable to use the area from Spring 2017. Paul questioned whether they really need to use the whole area. The committee concluded that we are happy to share our areas, but it is not fair for BOK to embargo our areas.

**Action:** Paul will reply to Trevor at BOK.

**9. Mapping:**

**(a) Resurrecting old areas:** After Tom Mills' comments at the AGM, some of his suggested areas are being looked at to determine usability. Paul is looking at Soudley. A group of seven people will walk through Lightning Tree, Welshbury and Chestnut Hills on Wednesday, using a new base map with contours and paths on, along with some old maps, so that they can classify areas as to how runnable they are. Steve commented that Kidnalls had not been used for a few years before the recent League event there and that it needs remapping.

**(b) Cleeve Hill permissions:** Paul reported that Ellie was happy for us to use Cleeve Hill for the Gallophen on 14<sup>th</sup> May. The Gallophen has since been moved to January, at Danby Lodge. However, it will be useful to adjust our list of constraints, since previously we had been advised that May was too late due to orchids.

**10. Equipment Officer's report:**

**(a) Club tents:** Pat reported that we need to buy a few more replacement poles for the new tents, but that they are very expensive at £47 each, hard to get hold of and less robust than the old ones. Pat will investigate getting more guys and Richard C suggested the possibility of using the old tents just when it is particularly windy.

**(b) SI units:** Pat noted that John has been very good at replacing batteries after the many battery failures recently. Ten more SI units have been ordered and John will check on the progress of this order.

**11. Captain's report:**

**(a) CompassSport Cup heat:** Richard C had listed Cwm Lickey as our first choice and will strongly refuse if we are assigned the South West heat, which is some distance away. Gary asked for someone to plan the training day on 28<sup>th</sup> January, since if we are to hold it on Cleeve Hill (similar terrain to Cwm Lickey) then it is less convenient for him. Richard P volunteered and this was accepted gratefully. Pat noted that Gill Stott can provide help, especially for juniors.

**Action:** Greg will get permissions for the training day on Cleeve Hill on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

**(b) Jukola:** Richard C had investigated sending a team to Jukola but it is a particularly long way away this year and there was not huge interest, so he may do this another year instead.

**12. Legend Editor:**

The new format Legend looks really good, though Judith is still keen to get feedback on text, font, etc. Judith reported that paper copies cost £2 to £2.40 to print, per copy. Feedback so far had mostly been that the paper copy is good, since it can be read anywhere. It costs 75p per stamp and 40p per envelope so realistically people would need to pick a copy up at events, rather than have it posted. Greg asked whether it would be cheaper to print if it was smaller. It would be, but that would prevent including large map extracts and photos. In the next Legend, Judith will ask if people want a hard copy and how much they would pay for one. Carol noted that our membership fee had originally been introduced to cover the cost of producing Legend.

**13. Welfare report:** Nothing to report.

**14. Development Officer's Report:**

**(a) Cranham landowners:** Pat would like details of landowners for an event he is doing for a school.

**Action:** Greg will send Pat a map of the areas covered by the different landowners.

**(b) Training events:** Pat reported that Gill Stott is getting involved again, which is encouraging. Vanessa is also getting involved. It is a huge amount of work for a small turnout, so we need to make sure we have enough people coming along to help.

**(c) Social event:** Gary had wanted to sell the CSC training event as being joint with a social. However, it was realised that this wouldn't be feasible due to the timings of the event and collecting in the many controls. Instead, we will do a club dinner separately.

**Action:** Gary will ask the Farmers Club in Gloucester about costs for putting on an evening event.

**15. Volunteer Coordinator's Report:** Nothing to report.

**16. SWOA Committee Feedback:** SWOA had asked for feedback on the proposed change to how ranking points are awarded for the South West Sprint Champs. Nobody had any strong feelings or thought it mattered greatly, but the consensus was that it seems sensible to do the same thing as other Sprint Champs. Caroline asked whether anyone would like to travel to Taunton for the SWOA meeting on Wednesday but it wasn't thought to be worth the expense.

**17. AOB:**

**(a) Christchurch POC:** Pat showed the proposed package for the POC and reported that his contact at the campsite is still very keen. They had shown the package to the café owner and she was keen in principle. We would act as the supplier and the packages would be sold at Bracelands, the café at Symonds Yat and possibly some other places. They would be sold for £4 for the whole package or £1 for just the map. The folder design is sufficiently generic to be used in other areas of the Forest of Dean. Potential areas for this include Lightning Tree Hill, which had a POC previously, though we are more likely to do Mallards Pike first. Judith suggested we include a single page on NGOC, printed ourselves. Pat needs help finishing off the package (particularly the folder) and making it look good.

**(b) Mobile options for POCs:** Pat described the options and their pros and cons. Richard C asked who the market is and Pat noted that it is mainly visitors, though also some locals may use it. The campsite has 60,000 customers per year, mostly visitors but also some from the local area. QR codes cost about £3.20 each to print. It was decided to go for iOrienteering. This will also allow us to do one-off events using QR codes.

**(c) Ideas for dual event:** Ideas include a "bike vs. foot" event where those on foot could cut through the forest, a duathlon and "adventure type races" like Tough Mudder and the Red Bull Robin Hood event. For the latter, it was suggested we do it jointly with Rogue Runs. Andy and Paul have contacts and we would be happy for them to take the profit, as we benefit from the exposure of orienteering. Richard suggested Shaun and Nick Dallimore and Ifor Powell would be good contacts for knowing how to market cycling events. Judith had an idea of a race involving 2-3km of a taped run, then a cluster of 5 controls to navigate to, followed by another taped section, and so on.

**Action:** A few people will get together with Andy and Paul to put together a plan to bring to the next committee meeting.

**(d) String courses:** This was only discussed very briefly as time was running out and the following item was more important. For bigger events, we have used SI on the string course so that might be a possibility for League events.

**(e) Club Championship:** John had approved Richard C's spreadsheet for scoring. Richard will email other clubs about getting CSV results and then communicate the dates to NGOC members. There will be trophies for first male, first female, first junior male, first junior female and handicap winner. John commented that we need to distinguish between it and the Terry Bradstock Trophy, which rewards travelling to bigger events further afield. We will keep both as more prizes is better.

**(f) Attendance at League events:** John had calculated statistics comparing this year and last year. There were about the same number of runs despite only having 11 events, but the number of unique runners was up by 10%. We should think about why more people are coming but coming to fewer events.

**18. Next Committee Meeting:** Monday 13th February 2017 at 7:30pm at Oxstalls Campus.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.