

Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting 13th February 2017

Present: Carol Stewart, Gary Wakerley, Caroline Craig, John Fallows, Simon Denman, Ashleigh Denman, Paul Taunton, Pat MacLeod, Stephen Robinson, Richard Cronin, Richard Purkis.

1. **Apologies:** Gill James, Greg Best, Judith Austerberry.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the 5th December meeting were accepted, subject to clarifying that the agreement regarding catering in the Forest of Dean is an agreement imposed by the Forestry Commission.
3. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** None.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Nothing to add.
5. **Secretary's report:** Nothing to add.
6. **Treasurer's report:** Carol had recently discovered that Fabian4 have a new scheme where we print our own bill rather than waiting for the email. The Gallophen should make an £800 to £900 profit. We are also still waiting for the club contribution from Croeso.
7. **Membership Secretary's report:** Nothing to add.
8. **Events:**
 - (a) **Training events scheduled for March:** It was decided to cancel the 4th March event, since we will struggle to arrange two events and this one clashes with the Welsh Championships. The 25th March event will be moved to 1st April, now that League 4 has moved to the following weekend. Pat volunteered to organise this with Gill.
 - (b) **League 7 venue:** Richard C commented that neither Monmouth nor Stroud will be mapped in time. He suggested instead we do a "forest sprint", comprising two short courses in a technical area of the forest, with the aggregate time to count for the league. Knockalls was thought to be the best area for this. An organiser is still needed.
 - (c) **Urban 4 venue:** This event will be held at Abbeydale.
 - (d) **WNL 1 venue:** Night events are banned in the FC Forest of Dean areas. Gary plans to chase Mike Hamilton about this. Richard C wondered whether this provides an opportunity to get some good will from the FC. We're having to change our programme because of their restrictions, so can they be more lenient in other areas? Pat noted that Poors Allotment now has lots of little paths cut through the gorse, making it quite interesting, especially for a night event. We can afford to get it mapped properly because it is only small. Richard C highlighted that Ben Mitchell is interested in mapping small areas.
Action: Pat will send Richard C a map showing exactly where we would like mapped and Richard will then ask Ben about mapping the area.
 - (e) **Highmeadow for two League events in 2017:** This was not thought to be a problem since Highmeadow is a large enough area that largely different parts can be used.
9. **Mapping:** Nothing to add.
10. **Equipment Officer's report:** Nothing to add.
11. **Captain's report:** Nothing to add.
12. **Legend Editor's report:** Nothing to add.
13. **Welfare report:** Nothing to report.
14. **Development Officer's report:** Nothing to add.
15. **Volunteer Coordinator's Report:** Position vacant. People commented that Simon finding helpers for events had been working well. Simon will post a message of thanks on the website after the event. He also noted that although we have 160 members, once juniors are removed and the remaining people are weighted according to attendance, there aren't actually that many left. He had already started asking people twice.
16. **SWOA Committee Feedback:** Nothing to report.
17. **AOB:**

(a) Consistency of website, email and Facebook descriptions of events: Richard C explained the function of the Facebook events. They are not a replacement for the event pages on the website. They need to look pretty and attract attention, with just enough information to give people an idea and to tempt them into clicking the link to the website. They can't just contain a link as people won't click on it unless we sell it to them. To avoid incorrect information appearing on Facebook, the person creating the Facebook event should ask the organiser if there is not enough information on the website, rather than assume any details.

It would generally be good to have more terrain description on the website. John suggested we could have both website and Facebook terrain descriptions for each area, which can be reused (and adapted) by future organisers, rather than having to be created each time.

(b) R2T2 (Run Ride Tracks Trails): These events will have a significantly increased social side. BMBO and Rogue Runs are happy to major on the publicity side. Financially, it shouldn't be much different to running an event just ourselves. If we are the main organiser of an R2T2 event, we would run it as a British Orienteering event and therefore use that insurance, but the rule about only insuring non-members for the first three events may mean we need to arrange separate insurance. Pat will organise the first event, which will be a 1 hour bike score plus one or two red standard running courses. However, we don't want to launch the website with only one event listed, so need to think about when we can do more. There was a suggestion of piggy-backing onto one of our late summer league events, but it was decided this would not be the best idea as it would be hard to keep the events separate (and having the social base for R2T2) while still benefitting from holding them in the same place. It was suggested that Sion's BMBO events usually have an easy loop and that this could be used for running (or the MTB score controls could form a 2 hour running score). Paul also suggested talking to Colin Palmer about similar ideas.

Richard suggested we consider cutting down our league events from 12 to 10, so that we don't run out of maps or volunteers and people are more likely to attend training events. Pat agreed that we should think about changes to our programme for 2018. John noted that we shouldn't change things specifically related to adding R2T2, until we know how well it is working.

(c) Mid-week training runs: Richard C reported that Andy Munro had floated the idea of starting mid-week training runs. They are likely to be about 10km from a pub, ending with a meal. It could also be expanded to hill reps or intervals. The aim is to start this summer. The response was that if Andy is happy to coordinate it, then it sounds like a great idea. It would be helpful to do it on different weekdays so that there's nothing it always clashes with.

(d) String courses: A few saw the posters at Mallards Pike and came to the string course, though still not everyone wrote their names down. The feeling seemed to be that there isn't a lot more we can do and we should expect very low numbers.

(e) Dogs: Paul can't see dogs at Level C events being a problem in general. It makes more sense not to allow them at Level A and B events, where results may be more important to people and therefore it matters more to be tripped up by a dog. Paul could understand why Roger didn't allow dogs at the Gallophen, because of a previous problem on that area. It was agreed that the event details on the website should always say whether dogs are allowed or not and, if not, it should say why.

(f) BOF Strategic Plan: Simon and Richard C had read it. It was thought that our plan is probably more relevant to us.

(g) Level B vs. Level C: This will be discussed when planning the 2018 programme. We needn't be overawed by Level B, nor C. Richard C thought location had more effect on attendance than level – so for us, we would need a Level B to be so good that it attracts people from London, not just Bristol. It would therefore need to be a weekend of events.

(h) 2018 event: Gary had spoken to HOC. They were happy to collaborate and suggested September. There are still some major events to avoid then, such as the Caddihoe Chase and London City Race. Richard C suggested that for a Level B event we'd be better waiting for 2019. Paul noted that most Level B events are named events and on a fixed weekend – e.g. November Classic. Maybe we should try and do the same, using the Double Gloucester name. It was suggested we could pick a weekend at one end of the February half term (or the weekend in the middle of the two most common February half term weeks). Our 2018 Gallophen is on the weekend at the end of the February half term, so we could have that as part of the weekend in 2018, but keep them separate in future years so that the Double Gloucester can be Level B and the Gallophen Level C.

This will be discussed at a fixtures subcommittee meeting on Monday 6th March.

(i) Club dinner: Gary had emailed the committee with options from the Farmers Club but had no feedback.

(j) Requests from schools: It was thought that when a school asks for some orienteering to be put on, it is best to ask them to come to somewhere with a permanent course (or at least an orienteering map), rather than require a coach to travel to where the school is and to possibly map it.

Pat had been arranging the next session with Bournside school. They are keen to use technology, so Pat hopes it's possible to get a grant from the Orienteering Foundation, to set up a MOBO course on the Christchurch site. Pat will go ahead with

ordering QR codes and replacing the posts that need replacing.

Gary voiced an idea of inviting lots of schools to a training event at a set location (with a POC).

It was noted that the Crickley Hill POC seems to have gone off the radar online, although the maps are at least available in the café there.

(k) Club jackets: SLOW have Trimtex jackets, though we don't know which model they have. It means one of Gill Stott's sons may have one, so Pat will ask Gill about it. Trimtex may also be able to tell us what other UK clubs have, though it may be simpler just to ask them to send us samples directly.

Action: Caroline will ask Trimtex how much it will cost to get samples sent and returned and, provided it is not a great cost, arrange for this to happen.

(l) Event Safety workshop: Caroline reported that she had realised Alan, who is organising the next event, has not attended an ESW. Thankfully, Pete was able to run one at short notice and this will be attended by Alan, Caroline and Tom Cochrane, to cover the officials for the next events. She highlighted this as something to be aware of, so that we don't get caught out again.

(m) Risk assessments: A signed copy of each risk assessment needs to be sent to Pete Ward for archiving.

(n) Extra courses at league events: Paul reported that he had added two courses to his league event. He thought it probably not worth repeating (especially for Brown) but worth mentioning the possibility to organisers of other league events, for them to consider if the area and their courses lend themselves to it. If adding an extra course, Light Green is probably preferable to Short Green, since it makes a TD4 course available.

18. Next Committee Meeting: Monday 8th May 2017 at 7:30pm at Oxstalls Campus.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.