

Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting 24^h July 2017

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

Apologies: Judith Austerberry, Gill James

1. **Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the 8th May meeting were accepted, with “19th June” amended to “19th August”.
2. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** None.
3. **Chairman’s Report:** Nothing to add.
4. **Secretary’s report:** Caroline had brought samples of Trimtex’s two jackets, the Trainer and Performance. It was decided to order Trainer jackets, which cost 78 euros each (or 68 euros each for children). These will be subsidised such that we charge members £40 per jacket (or £20 for children). This is in effect returning to members the money the club received for helping at Croeso, which feels right.
5. **Treasurer’s report:** Carol summarised that we are fine financially. The summer evening events are getting more popular, so soon we won’t make any loss on them. It was clarified that this year’s League 5 was only record attendance when looking at the last few years.
6. **Membership Secretary’s report:** Simon was thanked for organising the First Aid course.
7. **Events:**

(a) BOK event clashes: There was discussion over how to deal with BOK scheduling a Level C event (in the ASOA league) at Blaise Castle on the same day as an NGOC League event in the Forest of Dean which was scheduled 18 months ago. This is not the first time controversial clashes have come from BOK. It was noted that SWOA would not be interested in the clash because our event is only Level D, though at the same time we expect they would stop us moving ours to the Sunday because of the Devon Gallophen then. It was suggested we make our event free, to reward people for coming, but instead it was decided to market it better. We hope to have added extras like spot prizes for the fastest last leg, etc. We also need to contact the BOK Fixtures Secretary to make it clear that we work around their fixtures and feel it’s only fair and respectful for them to work around ours.

Action: Gary will email the BOK Fixtures Secretary, in the appropriate tone, to ask for some explanation and assurance that they will not pick clashes with nearby events in future.

(b) 2018 fixtures: A fixtures subcommittee meeting for this will be held very soon after the Scottish 6 Days. Greg highlighted that these need to be arranged soon, because time is already tight for him to arrange permissions and organisers for events in early 2018, and for the organisers to start planning.

Action: Steve will arrange the meeting to plan 2018 fixtures, ASAP.

(c) Weekend event Feb 2018: The 4th Feb Gallophen date has been agreed. This weekend will probably now be Level C, but we should ask E&CC if they can go in the UK League and make them Level B.

(d) 2019 Southern Champs weekend: BOK are organising this in the Forest of Dean on the weekend of 30th-31st March. SWOC have been asked to put on a race to make it a weekend event, but have told Richard C they do not want to say yes until they were sure we have said no. Understandably, SWOC felt that it would make more sense for us to do since unlike them we are very nearby and have areas in the Forest (although they would do it if we didn’t want to). Steve confirmed that we have not been approached by BOK.

Action: Richard will tell SWOC that we have not been asked, so that they can choose how to respond. If BOK do approach us, we will take up the opportunity.

(e) Sheepscombe event charges: When Greg spoke to the warden about permission for the September League event, they wanted us to pay a £50 admin fee, but also 10% of our takings. He thought they may be used to doing this for events which charge a much higher entry and make a reasonable profit. Simon had previously talked to someone there regarding Woodchester and they had agreed we don’t have to pay the extra because we are doing it on a voluntary basis. Simon will look this up, for when Greg next speaks to them. Greg also mentioned that they had suggested possibly waiving some of the charges if we allow them to use our detailed map for their own purposes.

(f) Crickley Hill access: Julian Bendle has now been made redundant, so we will have a new person to deal with. It may be worth investigating whether we could hold a small event there again.

(g) Sylvan Sprint: Tagging is done. The only issue is whether we can get everyone a run. With enough helpers, it should be

possible. The finish area is very tight so we will need someone to move people on down the bike track (and need to block off bikers). There have been 11 responses about food so far, of which 75% said they were definitely coming and 45% said they would eat (with the remaining 55% split roughly equally between maybe eating and not eating). A decision will be made at the end of the week.

8. **Mapping:** Paul reported that he is controlling the Brierley event for BOK (though has not heard much yet). It was noted that the “impassable” streams at the Abbeydale evening event had caused much confusion, due to the stream symbol not being included in the box of “Forbidden To Cross” features. In future, the stream should be added to this box. At any points where it is intended to cross the stream, the map needs changing (and it should be physically easy to cross it).
9. **Equipment Officer’s report:** Pat is concerned about the general state of the SI kit, as lots of relabelling and reprogramming has been required. John is still happy to replace batteries, but has 4 or 5 boxes that he can’t fix and therefore needs to send back to SportIdent. It was decided to buy more SI boxes, to give more flexibility. Pat also highlighted that a few controls, all our dibbers and some HOC dibbers are being hired out to a MTB enduro event on Dartmoor in mid-September.
10. **Captain’s report:**
 - (a) **Trophies:** We will have trophies of the suggested style for the first male, female and junior on Blue, Green and Orange in the League. It would be good to have something bigger for the Club Championships, as these will be returned every year. For this, Richard suggested first male and female in both senior and junior, plus one for the handicap. Richard expects trophies to cost £250 to £300 in total. They are made of MDF and it would be good to have one design for the League (which can change each year) and one for the Championships.
Action: Richard C will ask Joe Gidley for design ideas and Simon will also think about this and talk to Richard.
 - (b) **Club Championships:** After some races were (or appear to be) cancelled, there are currently only ten. We could just have ten or could put two less good races in. Richard will continue to look at possibilities. The Caddihoe Chase was determined to be too far away.
Action: Gary will check the status of HOC’s event at Titterstone Clee in November, which Richard C had noticed had disappeared from their website but with no message about a cancellation.
 - (c) **Cotswold Way Relay:** Carol confirmed that the club will subsidise down to £5, so Richard will ask people to pay Carol.
 - (d) **CompassSport Cup final:** Richard C asked whether people would prefer the coach to go down on the Saturday, or just on the Sunday morning. It was decided to go on the Sunday morning as that would likely suit more people, although it will mean a very early start.
11. **Legend Editor’s report:** Nothing to add.
12. **Welfare report:** Nothing to report.
13. **Development Officer’s report:**
 - (a) **Club improvement tool:** Pat had received an email from Craig at British Orienteering, thanking NGOC for their input to the club development questionnaire. NGOC have been chosen as one of the clubs to work more closely with (from September), focusing on the priorities which we had listed. As a precursor to that, we have been asked to go through the Club Improvement Tool over the summer and share the outcome. Pat does not have time to do this personally, but it feels like something we should at least try to support.
Action: Gary will look at the tool and either ask someone (or people) to fill it in, or do it himself if he wishes.
 - (b) **Publicity officer:** We seem to be doing a bit better with development recently, through putting out fliers and targeting the right people. However, we do really need a Publicity Officer. Sam Watson was suggested.
 - (c) **New people at events:** Where we miss out at the moment is on follow-up contact with people who have come to their first event. It was decided to send a welcome email to such people, asking for any feedback, listing our upcoming events, asking whether they’d like to receive the club emails and generally being welcoming and inclusive. Ashleigh pointed out that as orienteering events are not naturally sociable, it would be good to show we’re a friendly club. Paul suggested offering free entry to the second event. Pat noted that when entering details from entry forms onto the laptop, the email addresses can also be entered. Then these will be passed to Simon, who will send those people a standard email (if they’ve not already had it).
Action: Pat will redesign the registration slips to make the email address box more prominent.
15. **Volunteer Coordinator’s Report:** Nothing to add.

16. **SWOA Committee Feedback:** Nothing to report.

17. **AOB:**

- (a) **R2T2 (Run Ride Tracks Trails):** Pedalabikeaway should be catering for us at the next event. More helpers will be needed, both beforehand (to set up the course) and on the night (to help people who haven't done it before, especially if they're scared of maps or haven't used an SI card before). When helping people, it is very important not to use the word "orienteering". Simon noted that we don't have a lot of helpers available and can only just cope with League events, so wondered whether helpers would view this as being of benefit to them. It was suggested that loyal club members who think of the future benefit, people who are more into running/cycling than orienteering, or people who have done R2T2, are all good candidates. It was also suggested to offer people a free League event in return. Pat highlighted that if we are going to carry this on, we will need more people to plan and run it, but for the three events this year Pat and Gill S are happy to do the work.

We are doing all the planning and organising work for this year's three events, but Rogue Runs do the website, marketing and provide bodies on the night. After these three events, if there is a profit we'll split it but if there is a loss we'll bear it.

Greg noted that in future years we'll need a stepping stone from R2T2 to orienteering, such as a course for runners at a League event. It will take 18 months or so before we can see whether there's a benefit, i.e. whether people get interested in orienteering from R2T2. Pat mused that before then we could see orienteers who like mountain biking get into MTBO and we could branch out into MTBO events.

- (b) **Winter evening street events:** Richard C had heard that people particularly like our summer evening events, due to more emphasis on route choice than on fine navigation. He thought we should try putting on one evening event per month in the winter, in the Cheltenham/Gloucester area. These would require only one person to organise and run, so would be a 60-minute score event using numbers on lampposts etc, rather than electronic punching. He suggested a mass start at 7pm and then a trip to the pub. SWOC do something similar already, using Open Street Map with occasional adjustments, so we would use areas we don't have orienteering maps for. Gary asked Richard to think about dates, flesh out a plan and send it round.

- (c) **Coaches:** Pat commented that British Orienteering's proposal for coaches seems to encourage having more low-key coaches (so more of us could be those) and then Level 2 above that.

Gill Stott's coaching qualification is moving on. She has a day on 7th October and also needs an event to use as an assessment.

Gill S had emailed Gary to say that Bluecoats school want to do some after-school orienteering, but would like some help. Anyone who wants to should contact Gill.

Tom Mills had emailed Gary to say he's keen to do more coaching at a higher level and bring more people in. He had also mentioned Red courses, which is something that should fit in with creating a step up from R2T2 (and generally encouraging runners) so we will look at this in due course. Tom had also been keen to do a Level B event and pass his experience onto others, though it was noted that this would also be really useful at Level C.

- (d) **Mileage rate:** Greg questioned whether the British Orienteering mileage rate is still appropriate, still being 25p/mile, while the government rate is 45p/mile. Pat noted that it is only intended to cover fuel, not wear and tear.

18. **Next Committee Meeting:** Monday 18th September at 7:30pm at Oxstalls Campus.

AGM: Monday 16th October at Oxstalls Campus

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.