

## Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017

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

**Apologies:** Richard Purkis, Judith Austerberry, Gill James

1. **Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> July meeting were accepted.
2. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** None.
3. **Chairman's Report:** Nothing to add.
4. **Secretary's report:** Caroline asked whether anyone had suggestions for pre-AGM discussion topics. None were suggested, although it was noted that if the jackets arrive in time then people can collect and pay for them then.
5. **Treasurer's report:** Carol expected there to be a surplus of about £1100 on this year, thanks to a successful summer evening league. Greg clarified that the limit of 120 runners on the licence for Sheepscombe was only because that was the maximum he had predicted when they asked.
6. **Membership Secretary's report:** Simon will be away for 3 months from February until May (but not until after the weekend of events in February). He is therefore looking for someone to take on the Volunteer Coordinator role for that period (and preferably beyond). He has automated the process as much as possible, so it just requires the event results and helpers list pasting into the spreadsheet after each event and will then report who is next due to be asked to help. This calculation takes into account how much people have helped, compared to the number of events they've been to, giving more weight to the more recent data. Simon plans to make an online questionnaire to find out what people think of the new system, to check people are happy with it. We will then ask for volunteers for the VC role at the AGM. Richard C said that on the Compass Sport Cup entry form, Victoria Harvey had said she's not a current member, so asked Simon to check this.
7. **Events:**
  - (a) **BOK event clashes:** Gary had spoken to Alan, who said it wasn't done on purpose and that they would always aim not to do it.
  - (b) **2018 fixtures:** A fixtures subcommittee meeting had taken place and the preliminary fixtures list was brought to the meeting.

There was discussion about whether Chalford, a "rural urban" area, should be used for a League event. We had one urban event when we had 12 League events, but in 2018 there will only be 10 League events. Caroline expressed concern at urban events being increasingly common while cross-country events become rarer. Greg noted that Chalford is different to normal urban events, being charming and interesting, and added that he had already planned junior courses (not crossing roads). Pat suggested that we replace Woodchester (listed for a League event) with Chalford, because Woodchester is poorly suited to junior courses, as well as being very steep and having difficult access. This was voted on and more than half of those present agreed.

Greg had been sent the fixtures list in advance of the meeting, so had been able to check it and raise queries:  
The Training event on 14<sup>th</sup> March is on a Wednesday. This was corrected to 24<sup>th</sup> March.  
The WNL event in December is listed as Mallards Pike, in the Forest of Dean. It was confirmed that asking for permission for this is intended to test the water, regarding whether the FC will relax their ban on night events in the Forest when they look at it again. This year, R2T2 events were held on different days of the week to avoid clashes with weekly sessions. In 2018, they are listed as on the same day of the week. It was confirmed that this was intentional, as the consensus had been to keep to one day.  
The Summer Street Challenge in July had no location. Richard C suggested using Bishops Cleeve as there was a reasonable section of the map that had not yet been used.

The August Summer Street Challenge (previously listed as Chalford) will instead be held in a newly mapped area. Tom Cochrane had volunteered to do some mapping and Pat suggested Tewkesbury or the area around Pittville Park.  
The street event on 5<sup>th</sup> May was marked as a Summer Street Challenge, but should actually be an urban league event (hopefully) being held on the Saturday before Sunday's BOK Trot.

**Action:** Pat will suggest to Alan Honey the idea of the Saturday event being a UK Urban League event in Monmouth.  
**Action:** Steve will ask Roger Thetford if the Monmouth event can be in the UK Urban League.
  - (b) **Sylvan Sprint 2018:** League 6 (in July) will be the Sylvan Sprint and Tom Mills had found an area of Knockalls that would be well-suited. It will therefore be held there rather than Coopers Hill (as was on the list), because nearby parking is essential and would be difficult at Coopers Hill. After the low turnout this year, we need to address all the issues raised in the questionnaire about why people didn't go. In 2018, it'll be before the summer holidays, will use a purpose-made sprint map, will have toilets and will have more catering (hopefully via O Nosh). It'll also be upgraded to Level C (Regional). The area will need remapping and Richard had asked Ben Mitchell but been told he was too busy. Ben is considering whether he

could do a 75% job on it, as that would still be better than what we could do. If he says no, we should ask an external mapper, such as Dave Peel, since it won't be too expensive to do just that square kilometre (approximately) with a base map already available.

**(c) Weekend event Feb 2018:** This is intended to be called the Frosty Glos. weekend. It includes a Middle Distance event on the Saturday (at Mallards Pike), followed by a Night Sprint in Chepstow, before our Galloping on the Sunday (at Mallards Pike). Simon asked whether it was worth putting on the Night Sprint for the numbers it was likely to attract. Pat volunteered to plan and organise it and noted that it won't require many volunteers. It would be loss-making if we got good facilities and food, but we could then charge more. We will also advertise it locally, e.g. using R2T2, so should get the same number who came to the Chepstow event in September as well as people coming for the weekend. As the Saturday event is a Middle Distance, people shouldn't be too tired to run short courses in the evening.

**Action:** Steve will contact SWOA to get the events upgraded from Level D (Local) to Level C (Regional).

8. **Mapping:** Nothing to add.
9. **Equipment Officer's report:** It was agreed that Pat will buy new start and finish banners. This will be a couple of feather banners in NGOC club colours (ideally using the top design), but not featuring "orienteering" or the club name.  
**Action:** Caroline will ask Trimtex whether we can use their design.  
Pat had bought some inflatable animals to add to the string course, predominantly to be used as features for an "off string" course (with the string not mapped) for juniors to practise compass work or pacing.  
Pat has asked SI to send some baseplates to test.  
If Richard cannot get the data for Tewkesbury, the club will buy it.
10. **Captain's report:** Nothing to add.
11. **Legend Editor's report:** Carol had not received the September Legend, so there was some discussion as to whether it was due to the Gmail issue with cutting the "To" list down to the first 100. This is only likely if the email address used is treasurer@ngoc.org.uk
12. **Welfare report:** Nothing to report.
13. **Development Officer's report:** Nothing to add.
15. **Volunteer Coordinator's Report:** See Membership report.
16. **SWOA Committee Feedback:** Nothing to report.
17. **AOB:**

**Training:** Pat reported that we haven't done any since April and asked what people thought we should do. The training days we did involved a lot of work, with many exercises etc. Perhaps we should make them more focused, e.g. one for elites, one for novices, and/or focus them on specific skills. It was thought we should focus on beginners and improvers from beginners. Paul noted that we could offer simple advanced exercises at League events, such as "brown only" maps. Richard noted that the work on the day could be reduced by using streamers for controls instead of stakes and SI boxes. Gary suggested we have a training subcommittee which meets to discuss training for 2018.

**Action:** Pat will ask Gill S whether she'd be happy to coordinate a training subcommittee meeting.

**(a) Winter evening street events:** Richard C had got all the templates done and needed just two more volunteers. As they will be mass start events, only late finishers need timing and this can easily be done on a watch or phone.

**(b) Extra courses at League events:** Paul had produced a page summarising previous experience of providing "extra" courses at League/Galloping events. This showed that extra courses had had very low numbers, suggesting that at least initially few people will do them. The low numbers are likely to have a lot to do with them being one-off courses, rather than appearing as standard for the whole league. With careful planning, it should be easy to add a Long Orange or Short Green without adding controls.

The best option for orienteers seems to be adding a Short Green and replacing Green and Blue with Short Blue and Short Brown.

To attract non-orienteering runners, Tom Mills had suggested having a parallel "trail" event with the same base and a TD2-2.5 course not named as "orienteering", where there are very long legs with controls close to paths. The trail event would have a much more compressed start time, to make it more similar to running events and R2T2. The organiser of the trail event would see the Purple Pen file of the real event and use it to add controls to complete the trail course, which they would then put out. Paul commented that if we are to do this, we'll need to do it at every event. That would require 3 or 4 people willing to organise 2 or 3 of the trail events each.

We will make this a topic for discussion in the period before the AGM, to get the opinion of the wider membership. Pat and Steve will look at which 2018 League events look most suited, if we were to start off with just some. Pat will talk to John about how the computing would work if the trail course was not at every League event, hence not a League course.

**(c) New ISOM:** Caroline had received guidelines from BOK and asked whether there were any likely forest mappers who should see them. Paul and Greg had received the same email and nobody who needed it seemed to be missing it.

**(d) League event scoring:** When we only have 10 League events, 6 scores will count. It was noted that Paul had planned two League events this year, but we had said that nobody should get more than one set of Planner/Adviser points in a season. Richard noted that it's likely 6 events will count in the Club Championships.

**Action:** Greg will send his list of 2017 season advisors to John.

**(f) Terry Bradstock trophy:** This will be presented at the AGM. Judith currently has it.

**(g) CompassSport Cup Final:** The organisers have been told that we are bringing a coach.

**18. Next Committee Meeting:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm at Oxstalls Campus.

**AGM:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at Oxstalls Campus

The meeting closed at 9:35pm.