

Reports December 2022

Name: Paul Taunton
Role: Chair
Report: December 2022

- Controlled Vanessa's Parkend League (Regional) 11 September.
 - Investigation of horse rider's complaint after Parkend event and issue of response (Detailed in Legend 203). *I tend to include things that are of interest to club members in my "Chairman's Chat" in Legend, and they are not always repeated in committee meetings.*
- Assisted Pat with Highmeadow POC post replacement.
- Prepared report for NGOC AGM, 10 October (and managed meeting by Zoom)
- Attended two SWOA committee meetings 21/9, 22/11 and SWOA AGM 26/10 (all by Zoom).
 - Interesting point from SWOA AGM: NGOC put on 38 EVENTS in the year (1/9/21 to 31/8/22) the HIGHEST number of any SWOA club (*and zero ACTIVITIES the LOWEST!*) For comparison BOK 2nd put on 27 events and Devon 3rd 16 events.
- Raised query from Rob Finch re availability of Adult Elite coaching with SWOA. Pete Maliphant (BOK) replied with an invitation for Rob to go to coaching weekend he is arranging for both the SWJS and young senior elite runners at Danby Lodge on 10/11 Dec.
- Action on feedback to BOF re non-recognition of JK volunteers not completed, but see proposal for entry fee reimbursements included in Agenda
- Mentioned to Alan B. and Suzanne that it would be useful if the "Captain's Log" section in Legend could be revived, both to ask for competitors for future relays and other club team events and to celebrate successes by NGOC runners. (*Note that in recent issues I have included much of this information in the "Chairman's Chat"*).
- Terry Bradstock Trophy engraved with winners from last 2 years (but not yet presented to Vanessa). New Year's Day event might be best for the presentation?
- Initial visits to area and initial planning for Veteran Home International relays 1 October 2023.

Name: Alan Pucill
Role: Treasurer
Report: December 2022

- Current balances (at 01/12/2022)
 - Current Account £9,214.31 (Prev. report £9,537.42)
 - Deposit Account £11,523.75 (Prev. report £11,520.89)
- Summary of larger items since last report on 09/08/2022 (rounded figures):
 - Income
 - Income from Fabian4 for July to October
 - League £3106
 - Maprun £229
 - SEOUL Urban £780
 - Total £4115

▪ EOD income	£483
▪ Surplus from JK Day 2	£3028
▪ CSC Final - entries & coach	£490
▪ Hire of our SI equipment for Mountain Bike Event	£200
▪ Sale of O-tops	£178

○ Expenditure

▪ BOF/SWOA/WNL levies	£1553
▪ Landowners (Forestry England, Cranham Cricket Club, Forest Green Rovers, Kingsthorpe VH)	£1005
▪ Printerbase	£58
▪ Planners/Organisers/Controllers expenses	£183
▪ CSC Final – entries, coach & sundries	£1230
▪ Purchase of Club O-Tops	£2300
▪ British Orienteering Affiliation Fee	£70
▪ First Aid Course (trainer & hire of hall)	£768
▪ Maprun donation & Woodland trust membership	£183
▪ Equipment Insurance	£343
▪ Junior Squad Development	£760

- Income from Fabian4 lags a month behind.
 - Expected income at end of December (from entries made in November)

▪ League (Danby)	£209
▪ Mapruns	£271

Notes:

A lot of money has been spent recently, but largely thanks to income from the JK day, our total funds remain much the same.

Name: Alan Brown
Role: Newsletter Editor
Report: December 2022

- Next Legend due in January 2023

Name: Ian Phillips
Role: Mapping Officer
Report: December 2022

- Age of printer and quality of print now reaching critical mass. Agenda item to decide if now is the time to replace.
- Need to order more pretext paper. Currently have enough stock for three events. However, is the gauge too thick?

Name: Greg Best
Role: Fixtures/Permissions Officer
Report: December 2022

- Note Greg has devoted much of his spare time over this period to this role, for which we thank him

IN ROLE:

Tasks Completed

- Event Officials. Recruited event officials for nearly all events in 2023
- Postlip Warren. Investigated further the possibility of extending the Cleeve Hill map onto the adjacent Postlip Warren and holding an event there. Unfortunately, the farmer had changed his mind since my previous chat with him, so the idea is now indefinitely on hold.
- Organised extra permission for the BOK Army pop-up event at Rodborough
- Cranham. Liaised with Cranham cricket club over use of their nice facilities for the recent event there. I also have identified another possible parking location for Cranham and Coopers Hill events. This is at the sawmills and is conveniently situated and on hard-standing, meaning it would be a good winter option.

Tasks Progressing

- As always, lots of event permissions and fixtures issues on-going.
- Officials. Still need to recruit a couple of controllers and organiser/planners for the December league event and those in early 2024
- Prinknash Abbey. Have arranged use of the parking and other facilities at Prinknash for the Painswick event next March. This will be the first time we will have parked there for Painswick and it will allow an unfamiliar start and finish location. On my visit there, I also asked about the possibility of using their extensive grounds for part of our courses. Happily, they have agreed in principle to this too. Hence, I will extend the Painswick map to give the planner the option of doing this.

Tasks Planned

- As always, lots of event permissions and fixtures issues on-going.
- Informal mid-week events. Following discussions with Gill Stott, we have identified that it would be great to be able to put on a summer series of small-scale evening events. The idea is that these would be based around one or several different parks and that we could invite children who have previously attended Gill's sessions. These simple events would give novice planners a useful stepping stone to planning a bigger event. Gill has declared she is retiring from all things orienteering, but is very enthusiastic about this idea and I agree it would be a good thing to try. However, I have been too snowed under with other things to develop the idea any further. I would love if someone else had the time to co-ordinate this and move it further.....

NOT IN ROLE:

Tasks Progressing

- Caddihoe Chase/VHI Weekend. This will take place at Mallards Pike at the end of next September and I am planner for both days. I have been given permission by FE to use the spoil heaps at Lightmoor, an area we have seldom been allowed to use before.
- Christmas Maprun. This will start from the front door of our new house! All planned and ready to go.

Mapping Activities

- Mallards Pike. This is my current major project and has so far involved 12 full 8-hour days in the forest and the same on the computer at home after each visit. In readiness for the Caddihoe weekend, it was clear that the vegetation badly needed updating. I have surveyed the whole area and we now have a special summer vegetation symbol of green stripes that can be switched on or off depending on the time of year. This depicts the areas of bracken which are only a real obstacle between the end of May and end of November (roughly). Whilst doing this and by referring to the Lidar, I have found a great many other things to update and improve. Still plenty more days to be spent there.....
- Cirencester. When I suggested using NWO's map of Cirencester for a league event next year, I had not appreciated that their map did not include a large part of the town centre! Hence, I have had to busy myself with adding the missing part. This is almost complete now and it will allow Christophe (the planner) to base us in the Abbey Grounds in the centre of town, which is ideally situated for junior courses and will give the event a very different feel to NWO's 4 years ago.
- Cranham. Made a number of minor amendments for the recent event there which unfortunately required three separate visits.
- Prinknash extension. Have prepared the basemap for the extension, so ready for survey to start now. Should not take too long.
- Selsley extension. We intend to add the adjacent woodland to Tom's Selsley map, to be used for the event there next year. I have offered to do this, although Steve Lee is planner and has said he will have a go first at doing it himself. Waiting to hear how he gets on...

Name: Tom Cochrane
Role: Communications Officer
Report: December 2022

In role

Ongoing

Sending NGOC member emails, roughly every 2 weeks as time allows.

Not in role

Complete

Set up Nov-Dec MapRun series. These have returned to a 3 to 4-week frequency which seems better: we've had about 25 at each event so far.

Attended Controllers' Course at Sutton Park and was approved as Grade C controller by SWOA.

Ongoing

Updating the map of National Star College in Ullenwood near Crickley Hill (they requested this via Bob Teed, who originally mapped it). I think it would be a good sprint venue and have tried to encourage them to allow us to hold an event there in exchange for the mapping, but they may prefer to make a donation to the club.

Planned

To set up Jan-Mar MapRun series. Have had a couple of offers but further ideas still required!

Name: Pat MacLeod
Role: Equipment Officer
Report: December 2022

IN EQUIPMENT ROLE:

Tasks Completed

- Status check on all SI controls, following a rapid increase in failures since August. See separate report on SI controls below
- Reviewed and made minor changes to the equipment inventory for insurance renewal

Tasks in Progress

- Review of options for adding more SI controls

NOT IN ROLE

Tasks completed

- Organised and helped at lots of events
- Organised, with Alan Richards, a pop-up event and lunch for BOK/Army, on Rodborough Common. Thanks to Greg for arranging permissions. NGOC received £27 for map printing and kit use - £1/runner

Tasks in Progress

- Review and update of Danby Lodge map
- Planning for Danby Lodge event in December
- Ongoing MapRun UK coordination and support
- Help with Welshbury/Flaxley map updates

Tasks Planned

- Update of the website beginner info to include excellent material collected by Tom Mills at the O-Ringen – not yet started

SI Control Unit Status

Background

NB: Controls in this note includes the utilities such as Clear, Check, Start, Finish etc

1. In September 2015, when my records begin, we had 80 controls.
2. By December 2016 we had lost 2
3. We purchased 10 additional controls in about May 2017, and a further 10 about a year later, meaning that in May 2018 we had 98 units, but were starting to see battery failures on a noticeable scale.
4. By the end of 2018 we had lost, or had unrecoverable failures in a further 8 units, meaning that we started 2019 with 90 units.
5. At the end of 2022 we have around 78 units, due either to losses or to other unrecoverable faults, such as weak or no beep, or simply unable to repair by battery replacement. In addition, John has or will shortly have upwards of a dozen units awaiting battery replacement, or inspection for other faults.

Current Use

Our current objective is to have a set of 60 controls, with all others being used as utility controls – Clear, Check, SIAC test, Start, Finish, SIAC Battery test – with at least 2 of each, other than SIAC Battery test, always available for events. In other words, a minimum of 71 working controls.

We can achieve this with our current inventory. However, the battery failure rate, having been very low since Covid, has now increased rapidly, in part due to using the control in Beacon mode (ie SIAC enabled), and in part due to the general ageing of the inventory; battery replacement entails unsealing and re-sealing each unit, and that has inevitably led to moisture damage in some cases.

As a result, I am constantly having to re-program and renumber failing controls to match the control numbers used by planners at each event, so that whilst we have enough controls, having the right ones is becoming a problem, and is resulting in extra work, temporary labelling of units, and an increasing incidence of failure mid-event.

Proposal

I suggest that we should invest in a number of the newer BSF9 controls, to replace our older units, which can still be retained and used as necessary as spares.

The BSF9 unit has identical functionality to the current BSF8 units, but has additional benefits. It fits the same control stakes as BSF8 units but has a smaller form, is blue, and has the display on the top, rather than the bottom as in BSF8 units. More importantly, it no longer requires to be unsealed and resealed for battery change; instead, the base plate is held in place by 4 screws, so servicing the unit is much simpler. The hardware has been redesigned, and longer battery life is claimed for BSF9 units – according to the BSF9 datasheet battery life in on Active (not SIAC Beacon) mode should be about 5 years, if used twice a month for 500 person events. In SIAC mode it is estimated to be about 20% less.

Name: Ginny Hudson
Role: Membership Secretary
Report: December 2022

Previous membership

As at 6.10.21

Category	Current	Other
Senior	129	3
Junior	26	0
Total	155	3

Current membership

As at 24.11.22

Category	Current	Other
Senior	135	3
Junior	31	0
Total	166	3