

NGOC Committee Meeting

Monday 19 February 2024 – 7pm over Zoom

Present: Ian Jones (Chair), Alan Pucill, Ian Phillips, Ian Prowse, Judith Taylor, Pat Macleod, Rhiannon Fadeyibi, Tom Cochrane, Vanessa Lawson. Greg Best, John Fallows and Paul Taunton joined from 7.30pm.

1. Apologies: Alan Brown, Ginny Hudson. The meeting was quorate.
2. Minutes of previous meeting (4 December 2023) were accepted.
3. Matters arising: -
 - a. Junior Representative position on the Committee. Conversation is outstanding. **ACTION CONTINUES.**
 - b. SWOA action for the club to include a section on *Beginners* page of NGOC website on volunteering **ACTION CARRIED OVER**
 - c. Hosting the Harvester Relays in 2025 or later. Chair to contact CompassSport editor about running a survey in the newsletter to gauge whether there is enough demand for the Harvester as an event. **ACTION CARRIED OVER**
 - d. Chair to recce Gloucester Prison as a potential venue for the Chair's Challenge. Decided to use a different venue ("Nottingham (Hill) Nooks n Knolls") for the Chair's Challenge. Ian Phillips to check whether nearby Cleeve Hill Golf Club might provide catering e.g. a barbecue. **ACTION CLOSED.**
 - e. Google poll to understand the wider club membership's appetite for training exercises. Insufficient data obtained from the poll. Coaching/development sub-group will consider next steps. **ACTION CARRIED OVER**
 - f. Investigating whether NGOC can offer a personal performance award scheme which develops orienteering skills (like WOA/SBOC Seren Awards). No update provided. The committee was reminded that SWOA offers a colour coded award scheme which might be suitable. See <https://sworienteeringassociation.co.uk/colour-coded-awards/> for details.

ACTION: Vanessa to discuss with Heather Bovill.

- g. Selection of events during 2024 that will count towards the Terry Bradstock Trophy (TBT). Events selected and highlighted on NGOC website. **ACTION CLOSED**
- h. Crickley Hill Permanent Orienteering Course (POC) – should replacement signs be UV-resistant? Some Highmeadow POC signs now need to be replaced as well due to being eaten (probably) by deer. Recommendation is to use material that is both UV-resistant and animal-proof e.g. Dibond. The committee agreed to fund replacement signs using the recommended material.

ACTION: Pat to source quotes for replacement POC signs.

- i. Purchase of defibrillator. Discussed as separate agenda item (see below).
4. Reports
 - a. Chair
 - i. Discussion about the club's aims for the year. Aspirations are to: -
 1. help club members improve their orienteering skills
 2. increase the numbers of members qualified as coach, controller, organiser, planner, and first aid responder.
 3. Welcome emails to be sent to first-time league competitors
 4. Introduce a range of trophies e.g. most improved senior/junior.
 - ii. Committee was in favour of holding a social after the Chair's Challenge event, either at the event site or nearby

- b. Captain
 - i. The committee agreed to subsidise entries for the forthcoming Relay events. Further, the committee agreed to subsidise by 50% all team event fees for senior members who represent the club and subsidise by 100% team event fees for juniors.
- c. Treasurer
 - i. Still no feedback from auditor of year-end club accounts. Agreed to carry over to next meeting.
 - ii. Entries on the Day (EOD) are increasing. The club now has a second card reader. More EOD entries may make it more difficult to gauge the number of maps to be printed and result in unnecessary costs by printing more than needed. One to watch.
- d. Fixtures/Permissions – no points arising.
- e. Equipment Officer
 - i. Looking to purchase a small tent for events like the relays where there may be fewer NGOC participants. SBOC may have one that we could take off their hands.

ACTION: Pat to liaise with SBOC Chair about acquiring one of their tents.

- ii. Noted an increase in SI units with low or dead batteries. Cost to fix is about £15 each.
- f. Mapping
 - i. Spent £441 on maps since the last committee meeting. Have enough paper for six league events so will need to order more stock soon. Like to keep a baseline of 1000 sheets in stock.
- g. Membership Secretary
 - i. Not present
- h. Newsletter – no points arising.
- i. Welfare Officer
 - i. Highlighted that Licensed coaches are required to attend a refresher safeguarding course, which can be done online. Those wishing to qualify as a licensed coach for the first time must complete a tutor-led course. Noted that NGOC does not have any qualified coaches.
 - ii. The Captain noted that BOF is looking for people interested in taking part in a pilot of their new coaching qualification framework. Members who would like to join the cohort should email BOF for more details at info@britishorienteering.org.uk
- j. Volunteer co-ordinator – no points arising.
- k. Comms officer – no points arising.
- 5. Printer replacement.
 - a. The existing printer can be used while still operational and repaired if spares can be found. However, there is a compelling case to replace it as it is now obsolete. The committee has agreed in principle to fund a replacement.
 - b. Although the proposed replacement printer produces good quality maps, BOF has not approved them as sufficient quality for A and B level events. This may be because the printer is not optimal for PDF files. Ian P has arranged to visit Xerox headquarters in April to print maps from OCAD/Purple Pen files using his usual printer settings to see if that makes a difference pending a purchase.
- 6. Defibrillator
 - a. Due to the challenges of quickly reaching an orienteer in need in the forest, a defibrillator would be unlikely to make a difference. The committee agreed to monitor developments at other clubs and also to consider whether there would be other options for improving safety of runners out in the forest, e.g. offering CPR training such as a Heartstart course to members so help could be given by those on the spot.
- 7. Date and format of next meeting: **Monday 22 April in person at Elmscroft Community Centre, Gloucester.**