

Minutes of the Devon Orienteering Club Committee Meeting
Payhembury Parish Hall
29th November 2017

Present: Bryan Smith (Chair), Rob Parkinson, Alan Simpson, Matt Atkins, Steve Perrelle, Helen Taylor, Damian Wilson, Graham Dugdale, Tom McMurtrie, Ruth & John Chesters, Roger Green

Apologies: Nicholas Maxwell, Tom Lillicrap, Andy Reynolds

Welcome: BS welcomed Phil Conway to the meeting. Phil outlined his new role as BOF England Development Officer, with the specific remit to support clubs in the South and develop a Youth strategy for British Orienteering.

ACTION

1) Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (11/10/17) were agreed.

2) Matters arising

Organisers' training course – ran on 22nd November with six attendees, led by AS, with BS, RG and RP in attendance. BOF have produced an Organiser's information pack, which will be used to refine the delivery of this course in future years. It was agreed that it would be very useful to have a detailed listing of specific club members and their roles in supporting event delivery. AS/BS/RP will meet to review Devon course in light of BOF materials.

BS/AS/RP

Planning course – no action to report – possible date Spring 2018.

BS/AR

Mapping – RP and NM to feedback to Mapping group re: suitability of Fingle Woods and Auswell/Buckland Woods respectively

RP/NM/TL

Coaching – Several club members had expressed interest in the BOK Level 2 coaching course to be delivered in March 2018. SP to co-ordinate registration for this event.

SP

3) Membership and Recruitment: Action Plan

BS introduced his background paper, and the committee discussed the Club's Membership and Recruitment targets. Using GD's most recent membership data, it was noted that recruitment remains steady from year to year, with some changes from year to year in the Junior numbers, and Seniors being 75% male:25 % female, with most numbers in the over-50 age groups. The committee agreed that we need to recruit more members, particularly in the 20-45 year age range, as well as more families. We also need to retain members wherever possible. One potential target was 20:20, that is 20% more members by 2020 !

Following a wide ranging discussion, key points emerged:

Marketing - Summer series 2018 to adults (20-45 yrs) and families, identify target audience.

More effective use of social media (e.g FB events, target for example off-road running groups). Share experience (Kerno (Mark Lockett), TVOC, Orienteering Publicity FB page)

Coaching linked to events, advertise well in advance, progressive, through the summer

Review mix and geographical spread of fixtures - later in 2018

Funded bursaries – investigate support from BOF for individuals to organise some targeted events (info from PC/BOF)

Courses designed to suit less capable navigators – red, long yellow, labelled in a clear manner for non-orientees

Joining the club - Need to ensure that people can join at an event

Investigate potential for a One-off charity event -

BS, RP, SP, MA plus PC agreed to join a group to further develop these ideas, and develop a task orientated strategy for marketing and publicity, with individuals and timescales identified.

BS et al

4) CompassSport Cup & Trophy Final

BS noted that this event was a great success, and thanked all those involved in the planning and organising of the event. There was great support from many members of the club, as well as from Kerno. Bryan noted that SWOA, via Katy Dyer have added their thanks for running such a successful event. MA summarised the finances, in NM's absence. It was agreed to support the proposed two thirds Devon/one third Kerno split of the event surplus. NM and AS will be making specific recommendations to the hosts of next year's event, but as a club, 'lessons learned' included the need for more explicit volunteer team/task management before and during the event and planning for bad weather.

MA/BS

5) Fixtures

Recent event review – Recent events had been successful, despite the weather. DW asked that clearer guidance be requested from BOF regarding Short Green courses. Pre-entry via Fabian4 will be used for National (former Level B) and some Regional (former Level C) events (e.g. the Devon Galoppen), but the need for clear entry advice well in advance of the event was noted.

PC

Forthcoming events – SP reported that permission has not yet been given by Plymouth City Council for the event planned for 28th April 2018. It was proposed that this event be dropped from the calendar given the time-scale. Kerno to be informed, as they are holding their galoppen the following day. Attendance at night events was briefly discussed, and noted that a more extensive discussion was needed in order to identify the best way forward.

SP

Devon galoppen 2018 – following discussion, it was agreed that the Devon galoppen be scheduled for 14th October 2018.

SP

Club championships – SP raised the issue of the format and timing of the Club championships, noting the relatively low attendance this year. Item to be discussed at a future meeting.

Major events – AS reported good progress with preparations for the TT18. It is planned to open entries via Fabian4 on 1st January 2018.

AS

6) Dartmoor Access Forum

RP agreed to apply to become a member of this forum, as NM has served for six years on the forum representing recreational land users.

RP

7) SWOA and BOF items

BOF register of organisers – BS recently came across the BOF register of Organisers for the club, which was found to be inaccurate in some cases. Bryan agreed to enquire further from Head office to clarify how the information in the register is obtained.

BS

BOF Teaching Orienteering course, Heatree, 13th December 2017 – The existence of this course, and the lack of club involvement/knowledge was noted. The committee asked PC to convey our concern at lack of consultation to Head Office. RP has engaged with the course tutor, Jim Hayward, and will offer information/flyers/club contact details if the course runs.

PC

RP

8) AOB

Whistles – following a brief discussion, it was agreed that whistles should be mandatory at moorland/forest events (i.e. not urban). A supply of whistles will be sourced to be available at registration for competitors to buy. Start teams will be asked to check, and be provided with spares for those who forget!

**RG,
Organisers**

Finance update – MA briefly summarised the status of the clubs finances (circulated before the meeting). It was noted that the finances were stable, and running to planned budget.

Haldon activities – Wilf Taylor will be supporting a three-day school's activity programme at Haldon in July 2018, and will be helping to set up the gruffalo trail.

WT

First aid course – HT proposed that the next first aid course be run on Saturday, 3rd February at Ilsington Village Hall.

HT/RP

Orienteering in China – Meg Summers is participating in a formal orienteering visit to China.

A retrospective application for financial support would be welcomed. It was suggested that she apply to SWOA for support as well.

BS/HT

Tom was thanked for arranging the venue, and providing refreshments. BS wished everyone a Happy Christmas! The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 17th January 2018 at 7.30 p.m. Venue: Ilsington Village Hall, TQ13 9RG.

Major items for the agenda: Permanent Orienteering Courses, Training and Coaching.