

Minutes of the Devon Orienteering Club Committee Meeting
Payhembury Village Hall
4th July 2018

Present: Bryan Smith (Chair), Rob Parkinson, Alan Simpson, Matt Atkins, Steve Perrelle, Helen Taylor, Damian Wilson, Tom Lillicrap, Ruth & John Chesters, Tom McMurtrie, Nicholas Maxwell, Phil Conway (BOF)

Apologies: Andy Reynolds, Georgia Jones

Bryan opened the meeting by informing the committee that our President, Sir John Cave has recently died. Sir John had been a landowner in East Devon and a strong supporter of the club.

1) Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (9/5/18) were agreed.

ACTION

2) Matters arising

Missing competitor procedure – RP confirmed that the revised missing persons procedure is now linked to the Risk Assessment form.

Street O – Steve Perrelle was thanked for his efforts in running these successful informal events, which were regarded as being a positive addition to our summer activities.

British Middle Distance Champs – AR has agreed to lead Devon's contribution to the start team with WIM, and offers of help will be welcome. SP is leading the team setting up the Arena.

Club clothing – NM is discussing new club tops with suppliers based in Cornwall.

ALL

NM

3) Finance

MA updated the committee on the financial position (see papers circulated prior to the meeting). Several points were noted: 1. Income from regular events was lower than last year, due in part to cancellation and poor weather affecting the Moorland league. 2. The Tamar Triple accounts show a healthy surplus of £4.5k for Devon, from which some mapping costs will be taken. It was agreed to discuss allocation of TT surplus in the revised Club Development plan. 3. Cancellation of the CSC qualification round has saved the club approximately £500. 4. Two training items have included the 'Membership and Publicity' sub-heading (this heading needs to be reviewed for next year, perhaps being split into two separate categories). It was noted that the BOF levy takes a significant part of the Street-O registration fee.

BS/RP/AS

MA/AR

Grant application – It was agreed to grant Harry McMurtrie £100 towards the cost of the JROS Gothenburg tour this summer.

4) Annual General Meeting

Roles - BS highlighted changes in key roles that need to be resolved at the AGM in September. MA will be standing down as Treasurer. AR has agreed to put his name forward for that role. MA has agreed to put his name forward for the Membership role. BS asked the committee to reflect on how we can increase engagement by the Junior members of the committee. BS also asked how committee roles might better reflect the club's priorities.

Awards – BS asked for nominations for the club awards (Haytor, Epic, Chairman's and the Tom Chesters' trophies). BS will ask club members for nominations via Mailchimp.

ALL/BS

AGM arrangements – It was agreed to hold the AGM in a tent at the Club Champs (Virtuous Lady). RP will circulate AGM notification and last year’s minutes by mid-August.

RP

5) Access

NM gave an update on access developments, notably the extension to the spring/summer restricted access period on Dartmoor (from 14th to 31st July), which has also been adopted by the Clinton Devon estates. DNPA are proposing a ‘charge’ of £3 per competitor per event. These changes were seen as unreasonable (we currently make a donation of £1 per adult competitor) and detrimental to our sport. NM continues to discuss these changes with Access & Recreation staff at the DNPA, and RP will provide input via the Access forum. There is an opportunity for the Club to make more formal representations in the autumn when the revised Access arrangements will be discussed by the National Park Authority. It was noted that the Clinton Devon Estates have also adopted the end of July restriction date, and a stricter requirement for indemnity cover.

NM/RP

6) Fixtures

TM updated the committee on future fixtures, noting the difficulties in filling some key roles. Tom asked when would be the most appropriate time to review our pattern (timing and geographical spread) of fixtures, given the increase in the number of events in recently months. It was agreed that the membership should be consulted at the AGM to ask views. The Summer series (with it’s recruitment focus) will be reviewed in the Autumn, together with Night events. It was noted that the proposed fixtures do not include any East Devon events in the Autumn.

TM/BS/RP

It was agreed that the Street O was a positive addition to our calendar of events. SP agreed to co-ordinate for 2019, and has already had expressions of interest from members to organise/plan events.

SP

JK 2021 – it was noted that there are still uncertainties regarding the Plymouth Sprint event for the JK2021.

7) Permanent Orienteering Courses

DW provided the committee with an update on POC developments. It was agreed that we will use Haldon more when the infrastructure is all in place. There was a brief discussion of the potential to use this, and other selected locations more intensively with more formal coaching provision. RP agreed to take over at Parke. It was noted that Seaton offers good opportunities. The question of charging for maps downloaded from the BOF website will be revisited at the next meeting.

DW/RP

8) Junior & Youth Development

PC outlined his role in the BOF Youth Development Strategy, and highlighted the key areas of his work: Youth, Volunteering, Grassroots development and the Process of club support. He outlined the National-Regional-Club structure, and highlighted the need to provide a sustained offer to support Juniors. He noted the need to provide more social engagement, and asked the committee how that could be facilitated. There was then discussion as to how to best work with clubs to provide support. It was agreed that the club needs to develop regular, geographically targeted coaching and other activities, perhaps in a seasonal programme. This could be over a half-term block, for example. It was noted that engaging families was important, and that our development plan needs to commit resources to support this activity.

The recent development at Exeter Uni were seen as positive, but again need support, provided for example by the mapping on training areas. BS proposed that a small group take these ideas forward, but that we need a co-ordinator to lead. PC agreed to come back with further proposals for Regional Youth training activities.

BS/PC

9) SWOA & BOF items

Club involvement with the British Sprints and Middles were discussed earlier. Brief discussion of the format of the Yvette Baker trophy concluded that it would be more worthwhile to attend if two clubs per region were to qualify, and more than one event was provided on the weekend.

10) AoB

There were no items of any other business.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 11th September 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

Venue: Ilsington Village Hall

Major items for the agenda: Development Plan, priorities and delivery, 2018-21.