

Minutes of the Devon Orienteering Club Committee Meeting
Ilstington Village Hall
12th September 2018

Present: Bryan Smith (Chair), Rob Parkinson, Alan Simpson, Matt Atkins, Steve Perrelle, Damian Wilson, Tom Lillicrap, Ruth & John Chesters, Tom McMurtrie, Nicholas Maxwell, Georgia Jones, Andy Reynolds, Roger Green

Apologies: Helen Taylor

1) Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (4/7/18) were agreed.

ACTION

2) Matters arising

British Middle Distance Championships – were a great success, and Ben Chester’s contribution as planner was praised.

AGM arrangements – SP will bring a large frame tent to the event. BS invited comments on his draft Chairman’s report, and nominations for awards.

Access to Dartmoor – NM and RP reported on recent developments regarding the proposed new DNPA access charter. Key issues were noted, including the extension of the restricted ground nesting bird season to 31st July, and the ‘donation’ of £3 per competitor. NM and RP are contributing actively to the on-going discussions on the DNPA Access Forum

RP/NM

Fixtures – TM updated the committee on future events. Discussion focussed on the geographical spread of events, noting the need to provide regular events throughout Devon. It was noted that the ground nesting bird restrictions (1 Mar – 31 Jul) apply to Woodbury Common as well as Dartmoor.

Junior developments – the club is awaiting a response from Phil Conway regarding Junior Developments. Harry McMurtrie has written a report on his trip to Sweden, for which he was awarded a travel grant.

BS

Club clothing – NM is awaiting a response from the suppliers based in Cornwall.

NM

3) Development Plan

BS introduced a discussion on the club development plan, starting with a review of the 2016-18, which was conducted by BS, AS and RP. In addition to points highlighted in the review document, discussion noted that club ethos and identity was particularly important. Further, it was noted that membership is weak in the Plymouth area. AS stressed the need to promote the plan more purposefully, perhaps by drawing club members’ attention to the document. BS commented that as a committee we focus on selected key areas of the development plan at nominated committee meetings. AS offered to organise a series of training courses, some in the evening, to engage with members on a more frequent basis.

AS

Discussion then turned to the 2018-2021 development plan, again drawn up in draft form by BS, AS and RP. The document focuses on five key themes, which were discussed in turn. A number of committee members had provided feedback in advance of the meeting, and these comments were included in the discussion. JC emphasised the need for a balanced geographical coverage of events across Devon throughout the year. It was stressed that changes will be made to this document following discussion and comments submitted to BS and RP both before and after the meeting. Several key points emerged from the discussion:

1. Do we need an overarching aim for the development plan? One suggestion was ‘To increase

- participation and membership through a well-designed fixtures programme’
- 2 Are we trying to do too much? It was seen as very important that we balance our planned activities against our finite volunteer resources.
 3. The need for more definable objectives and success criteria, so that we know when we have achieved individual elements of the plan.

It was noted that the implementation will be identified within each individual thematic area of the plan. BS asked that committee members forward further comments and a proposed overarching aim (copy to RP) so that further discussion can take place at the next committee meeting (*Please send comments to BS by 13th October so that the development plan can be amended and circulated on Monday 15th prior to the meeting on 17th October*).

**ALL
BS/RP**

4) Fixtures

Review of recent fixtures – TM highlighted the significant effort that was put into our Summer Series. These events were designed to have a recruitment focus, and as such were a mixed success. He noted that the weather affected several events. In discussion it was emphasised that the club needs to provide regular, low-key activities to engage new members. Poor attendance at the Devon Relays was noted. The informal StreetO events organised by SP were praised as being a successful innovation.

Future fixtures – TM presented a draft list of fixtures for the coming months, and asked the question ‘how do we enlist the support of all club members to fill the roles of planner, organiser, controller, SI team and helpers of these events. It was noted that over the last 12 months the club had successfully organised a range of events from local to national/major, but there remains a question as to whether we can continue to support this number of events. SP stated that he would not be heading up the development of any extra local minor events.

5) Coaching

Haldon Forest Park ‘Introduction to Orienteering’ Course - SP & DW updated the committee on this course currently running at Haldon Forest Park on Saturdays. 24 people attended the first, free session, and 12 signed up for subsequent weeks. The committee thanked Steve and Damian for leading on this initiative, which was seen as a very positive development. DW highlighted the need for follow-up line (rather than score) events on a regular basis to engage new members.

Active Devon – BS reported that this Devon-wide sports engagement initiative aiming at all ages is continuing, again with a focus on Haldon Forest Park.

6) Loose ends

Risk Assessments – RP will update the list of RAs on the web so that Organisers can refer to them prior to events.

RP

‘Can I help you’ bibs – it was agreed that Organisers and other appropriate helpers at events should wear bibs or prominent armbands so that new members can seek advice and help. It was also noted that engagement in ‘how was your run’ discussion is a valued activity, and the tea tent helps this activity.

OROX (Orienteering Runners of Exeter) – GJ asked for assistance to develop training events at Exeter Uni. It was noted that local maps can be made available, subject to copyright issues, and that student membership of the club is £3. John Pearce is assisting with updating maps of selected areas close to the University campus.

RG/TL

7) SWOA/BOF items

There were no specific items. The date of the SWOA AGM (22nd September) was noted.

8) AOB

Roles - BS proposed several committee role changes and some selected role redefinition, to be put to the club AGM in September. These will be confirmed after the AGM. John Chesters' offer to assist with Access and Permissions in East Devon was gratefully accepted. AS agreed to take on a Training co-ordinator role, and to develop some 'club-night' type activities.

BS

BS

Charges for POC maps – following discussion, it was agreed to remove the £1 charge for downloading Permanent Course maps.

BS

Mapping copyright – BS proposed that all mappers should be contacted to confirm that the club should hold the copyright for maps commissioned by the club. It is proposed that this be applied retrospectively.

BOF safeguarding email – it was agreed that the BOF safeguarding email address be added to the events page as standard information

RP

BOF Annual return – will be completed by BS & RP in October.

BS/RP

VAT for car parking – NM updated the committee regarding on-going discussions relating to reclaiming VAT on charges for using fields for large event car parking. It is still hoped that the club will be able to reclaim the VAT on the field at Branton used for the TT2018.

NM/AR

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 17th October 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

Venue: Ilsington Village Hall

Main item for discussion: Development Plan 2018-21, Training & Club Nights