

Minutes of the Devon Orienteering Club Committee Meeting
Clyst St George Village Hall
27th November 2019

Present: Andy Reynolds (Chair), Rob Parkinson, Tom McMurtrie , Alan Simpson, Ruth Chesters, John Chesters, Roger Green, Helen Taylor, Bryan Smith, Matt Atkins, Martin Yeo, Tom Lillicrap, Damian Wilson, Nicholas Maxwell

Apologies: Georgia Jones, Steve Perrelle, Dawn Williamson

In attendance: Mike Forrest (BOK)

1) British Championships 2022

ACTION

Andy Reynolds introduced Mike Forrest to the committee - Mike gave the background to this item. BOK are in discussions with BOF regarding the hosting of the BC22 in the South West region. One option would be to hold the BC weekend (Day 1 Long individual, Day 2 Relays) on Braunton Burrows. The proposal, subject to further discussion, was that BOK and DEVON co-host the event, with details to be agreed. It is proposed that the event be held on 30 April/1 May 2022. The event could be expected to attract 1500-2000 competitors. Mike noted that there are two alternative venues in the region, but that Braunton was favoured due primarily to the technical challenge of the terrain. Two funding models were proposed, and it was agreed that a BOF partnership arrangement minimised risk to the clubs involved. In the discussion that followed, it was noted that the impact of this event needs to be discussed with Kernow (impact on TT22?), there would be a substantial demand on club volunteer resources, and that the two year embargo was excessively long. The area would be remapped prior to the event. It was recognised that the BC is a prestigious event, and at the end of the discussion a vote was held. There were no votes against the proposal, but two abstentions. AR to discuss further with Mike Forrest. Kernow to be informed of this decision in principle, to discuss options to run an event on the bank holiday Monday 2 May. Careful discussion needs to be held with BOK re: manpower and volunteer commitments to this event.

AR/TM

2) Minutes of the previous meeting

Approval - The Minutes of the previous meeting (25/9/19) were agreed.

3) Matters arising

Future Fixtures Structure –JC has reviewed options for Club Championships, and TM agreed to call a fixtures and activities sub-group meeting as early as possible in the New Year to discuss this item, as well as future fixtures structure.

TM

Club President – It was agreed to put the search for a club president on hold for the present time.

Club Photographer –Mark Lockett (ML) has offered to act as club photographer, but the role of social media lead remains unfilled.

Training Courses – Roger Hargreaves ran a successful Level C controllers course in recently, attended by four members of the club (see item 8). Three applications will be submitted to SWOA in the near future.

SIAC Mode – AS updated the committee on the current situation. Following further discussion, it was agreed that the controls should be left in non-SIAC mode except when Major events are held.

AS

Club Website Events Page – BS reported that activities are now included within the club website list of events page

Permanent Orienteering Courses – It was noted that there is still a vacancy for the club POC co-ordinator

AR

Event Entry Fees – The current event fee structure (available on the web) was presented. HT summarised event entry fees around the region, and noted that that £10 is an adult entry is amongst the most expensive for Local and Regional events. In discussion it was noted that we need to set fees to cover costs (particularly access costs), but we need to encourage participation. Fees will be reviewed, and then available (laminated) to Event Organisers

AR/TM/
HT/RG

Event Start Times – Following discussion, it was agreed that league event start time windows should routinely be 1030 to 1300. Organisers need to be notified, and details updated in the Organisers' pack on the website

?

4) Fixtures and activity review

Recent and forthcoming fixtures - TM presented a detailed analysis of recent fixtures, with comparisons to events in previous years. The joint event at Ashclyst with QO was regarded as successful. Whitchurch Common (Kerno) less so. Tom was thanked for his very useful analysis of event attendance. It was noted that there is a clash between the RDCP event in March and the British Champs. As the British Champs are to be held in Hampshire, it was felt that as a club we need to maximise our presence at this National event. Following discussion, it was agreed to remove the league status of this event, so the Devon league 2019-20 will comprise seven not eight events. TM to inform Tim Gent, RP to update web event details.

TM/RP/TG

5) Events and Activities

Item held over to next meeting, due to extended BC2022 discussion.

6) Mapping Update

Mapping - TL updated the committee on mapping group discussions. The minutes of the recent meeting of the group were noted. Mike Wimpenny has agreed to re-map Holne Moor.

Access - BS was thanked for his detailed analysis of permissions status for future events. It was noted that the absence of risk assessments for previous events can make the task of obtaining access more difficult, as land owners often ask for a risk assessment when granting permission. RAs should be forwarded to the secretary after every event.

RP/
Organisers

Bryan noted serious concerns regarding the revised Forest England access restrictions (core exclusion period Mar-Jun inclusive). This clearly does not match with FE policy of encouraging healthy living and outdoor activities in our Forests. Similarly the recent Glover review of the future of our National Parks uses the same language. BS will discuss our concerns to BOF. It was noted that BOF plan to appoint a 0.4FTE Access Officer in the near future. Mapping Arlington Court in North Devon (National Trust) was discussed, in view of the restriction on access to the months of January and February (limited car parking), it wasn't felt that the area would have much potential.

BS

7) Finance Update

Accounts - NM presented the summary of accounts, circulated prior to the meeting. AR thanked Nicholas for this update.

8) SWOA

Levies and finances - at the recent SWOA meeting it was noted that in recent years there has been an increase in grants made to individuals, particularly younger orienteers. As a club, we have benefited from this policy.

AR

Controller applications - The committee approved the applications from Nicholas Maxwell (Level B), Tom McMurtrie and Guy Balmer (Level C). AR forward to Arthur Vince.
Caddihoe '19 - Christine Vince thanked the club and all those involved in planning and organising this event, which was successful despite the weather!

AR/ALL

9) AOB

Club secretary/web manager - Rob reluctantly tendered his resignation as Club secretary/web manager with effect from the end of December, due to a move to Scotland in the New Year. AR thanked Rob for his contribution to the club in a wide variety of roles over the years. Committee members were asked to consider nominations for these roles

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 22nd January 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Venue: Clyst St George tbc

Main item for discussion: Events & Activities, Membership

Dates of future meetings

22 Jan 2020 Clyst St George tbc, Event & Activities, Membership

18 March 2020 Payhembury tbc, Volunteers and officials

13 May 2020 Ilsington tbc, Club Identity

8 July 2020 Clyst St George tbc, LT Development

?? Sept 2020 depends on date of the AGM