

Minutes of the SCOA Committee Meeting held at 1930 on Thursday 5th March 2026
(on Teams)

Present

Ian Moran	SOC	Chair
Jon Wheatcroft	TVOC	Vice-Chair
Trish Monks	BKO	Treasurer
Simon Kippin	TVOC	SCJS
Debbie Robinson	SN	Club Rep
David Currie	SOC	Club Rep
Richard Sharp	TVOC	Fixtures Secretary
Pete Riches	TVOC	Club Rep
Fiona Clough	BKO	Secretary

1758 Apologies

Liz Yeadon	SARUM	Club Rep/Coaching (listening watch)
Charles Bromley Gardner	BAOC	Club Rep
Simon Moore	BKO	Club Rep

1759 Review of minutes of last committee meeting on 4th December 2025

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed by those present at that meeting and agreed to be a true record.

1760 Matters arising

Paragraph 1712 – Grant & Awards policy – **Action: TM & FC to look at grants made over the last few years.** TM & FC have started work on this and will have something to present at the next meeting (or the AGM) – ongoing.

Paragraph 1738 – Coaching weekend for adults sponsored by TOF **Action: IM to obtain blueprint of previous TOF sponsored coaching session for review prior to further discussion.** IM said that there had been no interest in such a weekend from the people he spoke to. The previous TOF Sponsored weekend had been coordinated by Karina on SBOC areas. People booked their own accommodation and coaches provided various sessions. PR said TVOC members did not appear to be interested. FC said that BKO members had shown more interest. IM suggested that we could ‘piggy-back’ on the next SBOC/TOF coaching session or do it on our own. **Action: Club Reps to check whether members were interested – suggesting they fund their own travel, accommodation and food and TOF would fund the coaching expenses.**

Paragraph 1750 – to be covered in the Fixtures Report.

Paragraph 1751 – IM to inform KS that agreement had been given to cover reasonable expenses for SCOA affiliated individuals attending Controllers Course & appointment of three Grade 3 Controllers – complete.

JK2029 Actions to be covered in JK section.

1761 Chair’s Report

IM had circulated a report prior to the meeting covering discussions around using army areas for the Long-Distance race JK2029, the SCOA successes at the British Championship Weekend in Wales (5 x 1st places, 1 second place and 4 third places in

the Long and a 1st, a 2nd and 2 x 3rds in the relays) and the current results table for the SCOA League.

IM had identified that the SCOA Data Protection Policy needed to be reviewed, the current policy had been circulated by email, and several committee members had already made useful comments and asked that everyone review it with comments to be sent back to IM by the end of April. **Action: All to review the SCOA Data Protection Policy – comments to IM by the end of April.**

1762 Treasurer's Report

TM had circulated a report to committee members prior to the meeting that included the end of year figures that show the account totals have only reduced by £500 in 2025.

TM has recently identified that the current bank provider (Santander) has now started charging a £15 monthly fee and asked for agreement to change to a different bank and she suggested Lloyds. There was a short discussion, but it was agreed unanimously.

Action: TM to change banks

TM also pointed out that the constitution refers to 'cheque signatories' and makes no mention of on-line banking and approvals. This needs to be updated. Any changes to the constitution must be circulated in advance of the AGM and agreed at that meeting. **Action: FC to draft changes to the constitution to update from cheque signatories to online banking and transaction approval for review at the AGM on 11th June 2026.**

TM had reviewed the SCJS plan and proposed to put the amount agreed direct into the JS account. TM (and FC agreed) that she was a little confused as to which payments go out from the main SCOA account, and which should be paid from the JS account. SK explained that events such as Interland, Lagganlia, Deeside and the Czech Republic weekend are grants to the individuals and should come from the main account. Other training such as Hawkshead and JIRC's where the athletes pay a contribution come from the JS account.

TM's final point was that she has still not had affiliation fees for the past 2 years from JOK, RAFO or RNOC (one member) and WightO owes for 2025 (£28). DC said that he had been in contact with JOK and they will pay. **Action: TM/FC to chase up affiliation fees.**

1763 Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

1764 Fixtures

RS had circulated an update prior to the meeting and mentioned the following points: SCOA should be hosting the Southern Champs for 2029 (in addition to the JK) and the Southern Night Champs 2027.

TVOC have agreed to host the CSC Final in 2027 (on 17/10/27).

The prize giving for the 24/25 season was held at the BKO event at Black Park and was well attended. The remaining prizes and certificates will be handed out to winners at the Rushall Woods event on 12/04/26.

RS that we need more events registered for the 26/27 SCOA league season.

There are several events still looking for hosts – YBT 2027, CSC Round 07/02/2027 – there has not been a CSC round in SCOA for several years. FC made the point that the date was a problem for BKO as it was close to the Concorde Chase weekend which leaves volunteers worn out.

PR asked about the criteria for the YBT as TVOC could tie it into the event at Shotover early in 2027. RS said that it fits in a normal Level C event. **Action: PR to check with TVOC fixtures.**

DC said the CSC Round might work with a SOC event and he would check. **Action: DC to check whether SOC can take the CSC Round 2027.**

1765 Technical Officer

IM updated the meeting on KS's behalf that she currently has 3 people looking to do a Grade C Controllers course and asked that Club Reps encourage other possible Controllers to contact KS.

There is a list of Controllers, their grading and contact details posted in the members area of the website. It is not clear who can access this area of the site.

PR asked that thanks be passed to Katy for the last course. The TVOC members who attended found it very useful.

IM mentioned that he had been looking around the BOF website and discovered he can access lots of data on SCOA members and suggested other committee members have a look too.

1766 Coaching & Development

LY who is temporarily looking after both pending the appointment of someone else to cover both roles had sent her apologies and had nothing to report.

1767 Junior Squad

SK had circulated a report detailing the activities of the squad since the last meeting and the proposed activities for the next few months. He had also circulated the 2026/27 Junior Squad plan with a review of the 2025 action plan. The main thing from the plan is the proposed budget for 2026. Proposed at this time to be £3,450 (breakdown: JIRCS £1,500; JROS Hawkshead £500; Training days £400; Xmas weekend £200; 1st Aid replenishment £50; - in addition a training w/end with another squad and some clothing replenishment £760). SK said they plan to have a back-up stock of squad tops rather than having to wait to make a larger order.

TM suggested that she added 35% to the basic price of kit to cover exchange rate/delivery/VAT and that worked out well.

SK made the point that there may be amendment to the budget to cover the costs of training for Safeguarding when the review by BOF has been completed. Some parents are orienteers and can be used to 'shadow' the children on courses.

Potential costs for volunteers:

E-learning course per person = £10

FacetoFace course = £44

FacetoFace renewal = £28 every 3 years

DBS = £12.60

Costs per Squad management position:

Coach = Initial £66.60 with £40.60 every 3 years

Volunteers = £66.60 with £1.60 every 3 years

Admin roles = £10

DR said there were lots of White and Yellow level juniors at SN and asked how they get encouraged into the Junior Squad. SK responded that Laurence approaches Juniors and their families for that purpose. They also have an Instagram account that his daughter keeps up to date. DR asked whether it would be possible to include Junior Squad information in the SN Newsletter 'Snaggers'. SK said yes and suggested she contact Laurence to discuss it.

Discussion followed regarding the Safeguarding training for volunteers and the cost implications. PR said that TVOC have already sent feedback to British Orienteering and recommended that all clubs do this as a matter of urgency.

JW stated that he had been offered an online course from 'London Sport' at no cost. Alun Jones had been told 'there was no room for compromise' and that every official needs to undergo the training. DR had received different feedback from Jeanette at BOF giving the impression that if the roles only have infrequent or incidental contact with children that reading a one-page facts sheet prior to the event should suffice.

Action: DR to forward the email response received from Jeanette to committee members.

SK explained that different sports activities have different models. Athletics clubs require everyone to do the training including people putting out markers. For Park Run, the marshals must be in sight of each other (so never alone with a child at any time). It is expected that this will continue to be an issue of great concern to all orienteering clubs for the foreseeable future.

Action: IM to contact BO to clarify the safeguarding requirements for juniors.

1768 Website & Publicity

SK said that his daughter is helping Jerry Newcombe continue to build the website. The work is ongoing.

1769 JK2029

IM updated the committee on the current discussions regarding areas.

Sprint – Whiteknights was discussed again. FC explained that obtaining permission to run an event on campus now require separate agreement from all the different departments. Additionally, it may not provide the required car parking available (lots of the car parks have been built on).

Birch Hill would be a better option using Fujitsu for car parking.

Middle – Chawton Forest (just off the A31 – BADO area that also hosts the Brutal) was suggested. Alan Kersley suggested that permissions are obtained by Allan Farrington as he can get better rates. It has a large parking area adjacent – over 1,000 cars.

Long - the AOA will not agree use of the suggested army areas as they get used numerous times during the year for both the MLS summer and winter season and BOF will not exempt MLS runners from being non-competitive in the JK. Additionally, the army areas are now becoming subject to the Natural England/SSSI restrictions. IM said we are now back to considering Cold Ash or Hambledon as the only options. PR said that Hambledon is probably a 'No' as it has been overused with 7 events in the last 8 years and it is the venue for a forthcoming Southern Champs.

FC said that she had emailed Simon Moore (Chair of BKO) regarding possible venues for the Long-Distance race and received the following response (he was unable to attend the meeting):

'Cold Ash has been used for the last 2 SCOA JK's and the BOC 2023 and I am happy for it to be used for JK2029 but it will require bussing as the parking field option is now totally out. Star Posts with bussing is possible but not great from an area perspective if using the Lookout end. Extending to Barossa would give potentially other options but would fall foul of the AOA issues and parts are also covered by SSSI restrictions. Additionally, BKO does not have the volunteer capacity to run both the Sprint AND the Long without considerable buy in from other SCOA clubs.'

DR said that if we must use bussing to get competitors to the competition arena then are there any other possible areas lacking the necessary on-site parking that could be used? **Action: All Club Reps to discuss with committees whether they have an area that could hold a Long-Distance race if competitors were bussed to assembly.**

DR suggested Burghfield – Englefield Estate (BKO), FC said it would involve multiple road crossings and is probably not big enough but that she would mention it to Simon Moore.

Relay -PR suggested using Shotover for the relays **Action: PR to discuss this with TVOC committee**

Trail-O – CBG had sent his apologies and stated that he would wish to be involved in providing Trail-O at JK2029 (he is doing the same for the SEOA JK2027).

1770 AOB

Various changes to the constitution need to be considered for proposal at the AGM namely.

The wording around when the SCOA Champs prize giving should be held.

Phrasing around financial transactions need to be 'online transactions' rather than cheques – they would still require two officials to approve (covered in Treasurer's report) – and Safeguarding Training.

Action: FC to suggest changes to the wording and circulate prior to putting forward at the AGM.

PR pointed out that at the Southern Champs the junior winners got their trophy and some fudge and 2nd & 3rd got fudge. Juniors need to get medals. Everyone agreed.

Action: IM to discuss and agree with Chairs of SWOA & SEOA.

1771 Proposed dates of future meetings

Thursday 11th June 2026 – AGM & Committee meeting following

Thursday 10th September 2026

Thursday 3rd December 2026

Fiona Clough
Secretary SCOA
16th March 2026