

**MINUTES OF SCOA COMMITTEE MEETING, 7.30pm, 6th MARCH 2003
AT THE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, NEWBURY.**

Present:

Mike Bray, SN
Phil Brown, BKO, Coaching
David Currie, SOC, Junior Squad
Allan Farrington, BAOC
Andy Macgregor, BADO
Adrian Lovell, BADO, Chairman
Ralph Phipps, TVOC
Richard Sharp, TVOC, Fixtures
Katy Stubbs, BKO, Events Standards and JK2003
Di Smith, SOC
Terry Smith, SOC
Damian Wilson, BKO, Secretary
Alan Yeadon, BKO

562. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Mark Thompson, Caroline Ford and Carol Edwards.

563. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

538. Clubs were again reminded (for the last time) about reports on National Orienteering Week being sent to BOF. **ACTION Clubs.**

557. Help for JK is still being sort, clubs should encourage their members to offer their support. **ACTION Clubs.**

556. The joint technical conference between SCOA and SEOA was a success.

558. The query about the need to obtain disclosures for the Junior Squad helpers has been clarified, it will be SCOA policy to obtain disclosures for all those with unsupervised access to members of the junior squad.

564. Report of the SCOA Working Group on Electronic Punching.

The chairman moved this item to the end of the committee meeting.

565. JK2003 Report

Katy Stubbs gave an update.

Arrangements for day 1, Hambledon, were proceeding satisfactorily.

Day 2 courses have been planned but there is no longer an organiser. A reserve organiser has been approached, who has the skills and experience to successfully organise this event. *[Secretary's note: this has now been confirmed as Bryce and Janet Gibson].*

Day 3 relays will be at Hambledon. Courses have been planned and the control sites tagged and controlled. Katy thanked those who had helped investigate other locations for the relays.

Although there are lots of entries being received, it is doubtful that they will meet BOF's target.

The committee discussed whether some of the funds SCOA makes from the JK should be passed onto clubs who provided helpers for the event. SCOA will make this decision after the JK financial transactions have been fully completed. **ACTION**

SCOA Committee. 'Free-runs' will not be offered, but helpers (on any day) will get car parking passes to a closer car-park on day 2.

566. Treasurer's Report.

Caroline Ford had provided a written statement.

No grants had been awarded between 1/11/02 and 28/2/03 and funds stand at 5317.97 pounds.

567. Fixtures' Secretary's Report

SCOA has been asked to consider hosting the British Night Championships for 2006. Clubs should contact Richard Sharp if they can organise this. **ACTION Clubs.**

Richard proposed that the SCOA championships should take place at the SARUM badge event. Richard will clarify this. **ACTION Richard Sharp.**

568. Events Standards Report.

The BOF Events Standards Committee are currently reviewing the appendices of the BOF rules and guidelines. There is nothing controversial involved.

The next meeting will spend time discussing the Junior Badge Scheme. This will be adopted nationwide, with a review after two years. The BOF Events Standards Committee will issue guidelines for how this is to be adopted by clubs. An *estimated* date for the change is September 2003.

The BOF Events Standards Committee is also tasked with reviewing colour coded standards for women.

569. Junior Squad Report.

David Currie gave the report.

There had been several training events since the last SCOA meeting. The M16 and W16's had had a training day at Lakeside with WMOA. This included talks in the evening, including from British Squad juniors.

December training had been at Ash South. Sarah Rollins had attended. January training was at Blackwood and February at Finchampstead Ridges. Approximately 10-11 juniors had attended each training event. March training may be at Bloom Wood.

The squad will travel to the Future Champions' Cup 9-10 March 2003.

Carol Edwards has stepped down as co-ordinator and Tim Booth has been asked to take over. Carol will remain as treasurer and remains heavily involved with the squad.

David and Christine Currie had been on several BOF organised coaching courses.

START funding will continue until March next year.

570. Coaching Report.

Phil Brown gave the report. There are level 3 (club coach) and level 4 (regional coach) courses running, through BOF. Details are on the BOF web site. Phil Brown will remind SCOA clubs when courses are occurring. If clubs wish to have coaching courses for their members then they should discuss their requirement with Phil, who can help. **ACTIONS Phil Brown and Clubs.**

Di Smith asked about a BOF coaching event advertised to take place on 22nd March, but for which very few details were available. Phil will investigate this and respond to David Nixon, SOC. **ACTION Phil Brown.**

571. Secretary's Report.

Information had been received from the 'Lord Wandsworth College', advertising the hire of their facilities.

Although David Rollins had been asked to represent SCOA at the EOC AGM, he has not responded to SCOA. Damian will confirm whether he can attend. **ACTION Damian Wilson.**

Newsletters had been received from SEOA and WMOA. Damian will check whether they are available on the web and send links to Alan Yeadon. **ACTION Damian Wilson.**

572. Arrangements for AGM.

The AGM is on Thursday 19th June in Basingstoke. Damian Wilson said that he would not be standing for re-election as secretary at the AGM. Other committee members who were present all indicated their willingness to stand for re-election. Since Damian is moving house shortly, there is a need to redirect SCOA mail to another location (it not being sensible to redirect to Damian's new address only for it to be changed again after June). Clubs should ask their members to consider standing for election as secretary [*Secretary's note: or any other committee post*] and to consider receiving SCOA mail. **ACTION Clubs.** Allan Farrington will receive the mail if no-one else is found.

573. Any other business (except for the e-punching report).

There was no other business.

564. Report of the SCOA Working Group on Electronic Punching.

Richard Sharp presented the report. The background is that TVOC was looking at the possibility of acquiring an electronic punching system. Julianna Grant had advised that an application for funding would be stronger if it came from the region, and accordingly TVOC asked SCOA to become involved. Two working groups were set up, with representatives from SCOA clubs, one to look at funding possibilities, the second (the report of which was presented to the SCOA committee) to assess whether available electronic punching systems met the needs of SCOA. After its investigations, this working group had voted by a small majority to recommend Emit as the system for SCOA to adopt.

Richard informed the committee that the remit for the report had been proposed by TVOC and endorsed by SCOA, and the working group had covered each point.

Evidence had been acquired from members of the working group and their clubs, other regions and information on Emit and SportIdent websites.

David Currie was concerned that the report covered only what was in current and regular use, not the state-of-the-art systems that could be bought now. He called into question some of the information the working group had gathered as to the limitations of the SportIdent system. Richard Sharp replied that there was a lot of speculation about what could be bought in the future.

Phil Brown raised the point that younger people may have problems switching from a system that they are used to, to another.

Terry Smith asked that the committee considers the basic question of why electronic punching is wanted. The two reasons he gave were that it enables organisers to produce results quickly and for competitors to obtain split times. Ralph Phipps pointed out that the this question was missing from the remit given to the working group.

Ralph Phipps also ask that the committee carefully considers the weight to be given to each criterion in the remit. Is the most important person in the decision the competitor or event officials? Katy Stubbs would like this issue assessed further. Would a competitor choose between two events on the basis of the punching system used? In response to suggestions that once a punching system is established clubs will be reluctant to change from it, Terry Smith pointed out that there had been several Scottish clubs who had changed from using a readily available SportIdent system to using Emit.

Methods of funding had not been fully investigated by the second working group. This group needs more support and is an essential part of the process of acquiring punching equipment. Di Smith queried the 1200 pounds that were spent to buy 10 SportIdent boxes, 12 cards and software for the SCOA training equipment. **ACTION Caroline Ford.** Richard Sharp estimated that the cost of the complete equipment set would be in the region of 40k to 50k pounds. Phil Brown pointed out that it would be better to loan juniors e-cards at events rather than hire them.

The SCOA committee voted to accept the working group report (8 for, 2 against, 1 abstention). Adrian Lovell thanked the members of the working group on behalf of SCOA.

The SCOA committee decided to defer a decision about which electronic punching method to use until the next committee meeting (after the AGM, June 19th 2003).

The following actions were raised with respect to the report.

- 1) The working group report will be made available on the SCOA website. *[This has been done].*
- 2) A more detailed analysis of the failure rates of SportIdent and Emit systems will be carried out. **ACTION Richard Sharp and Terry Smith**
- 3) An investigation into the systems that are currently available will be carried out. **ACTION Terry Smith.**
- 4) A list will be drawn up detailing exactly the amount of equipment that SCOA would need for both SportIdent and Emit systems. Quotations will be sought. **ACTION Richard Sharp and Terry Smith**
- 5) The funding working group will receive assistance from Phil Brown. Richard Sharp will put Phil Brown in contact with Jerry Newcombe. **ACTION Richard Sharp and Phil Brown.**
- 6) The reports from the actions above will be circulated to the SCOA committee and club representatives two weeks before the next committee meeting. A decision on whether and how to buy equipment will be made at the committee meeting.

Thanks.

The chairman thanked Damian Wilson for all his hard work and valuable contribution as Secretary over the last few years. Members of the committee also voiced their thanks.

Damian Wilson, SCOA Secretary, 17th March 2003.