

Development Officer – report to SCOA Committee – 1st March 2018

It should be noted that much of BOF Development work is centred on encouraging and promoting opportunities for Juniors in an effort to try to keep more of them in the sport – something which all Clubs are concerned about.

1. Yvette Baker Trophy/ Shield – efforts are being made to get the Shield activities going in 2018 as a full part of the Yvette Baker trophy competition – this is taking a bit of time as the Rules need to be sorted out and made clear. These are still with the Events & Competitions committee. The Shield competition was held at the Yvette Baker Trophy Final in 2017 in the North East and was won by CLOK as the only Club taking part! However, this year we now have an Yvette Baker Trophy Round taking place in SCOA and we are planning on holding a trial Shield competition alongside the main Trophy competition. The main difference between the Trophy & the Shield is that Clubs with the number of Juniors in their Club as at the end of October each year being less than the median across the country (this season it is 25), can take part in the Shield. Only 5 Scores are to count rather than the 9 Scores of the Trophy. The scoring is rather complicated and Jerry Newcombe has offered to score the results by hand for any Shield entrants, this year, with a view to sorting out a computer based programme in following years. This is aimed at encouraging more Juniors to take part

2. Junior Development Group – Phil Conway has now met the Clubs in the South and hopes to promote some more Away days in the various Associations, rather than just one venue in the South, recognising that Juniors are not keen on travelling long distances – this is after the two successful Away days held in October 2017. He also has been writing the Youth Strategy for British Orienteering - this will now be called a Junior Strategy.

3. Awards & results – In an effort to give more incentives to Juniors, it would be very helpful if all Clubs could post the results of **all** of their events that have results, including Level D events, as many Juniors & families just do these. This should enable Juniors to qualify for more certificates and for BOF to get these sent out to them. The system is still flawed though as it does involve someone having access to a computer to access the certificates, which can then be printed off. This still needs working on.

Liz Yeadon

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