

Chairman's Report for 2018 at the 2019 AGM.

The main emphasis in SCOA in 2018 was the ongoing organisation and planning for the 2019 JK which involved many people in all the clubs.

A major issue we been dealing with in the past year and is also a problem going forward is with land access and charges. This is particularly so in relation to the use of military land. SCOA has benefitted from the amount of military land in the region but this is now being priced out of use for anything below Level B events. We are also being increasingly limited in the time window that we can use some areas due to environmental concerns. Peter Hart, the new BO CEO, has attempted to resolve the issue of land charges with the DIO who are responsible for the military land but so far has not been able to make any progress,

The problems with land access has impacted on the number of SCOA League events we have been able to put on in the 2018 /19 season. For a variety of reasons there were only 6. SCOA League events are forest events at Level C which have become increasingly difficult for clubs to host. The lack of SCOA League events has been discussed by the committee and clubs are being asked to try and host more events. We will also explore the possibility of asking clubs in neighbouring regions who are holding Level C events if they could be part of the SCOA League.

In the spring of 2018 the inclement weather caused problems in the region. The Chiltern Challenge had to be postponed and then downgraded to a Level C event when it was held in May. The BADO event at Butter Wood had to be cancelled at the last minute when the car parking field became unusable. The one upside of this was that the Junior Squad received a substantial donation from BADO from the pre-entry money.

Several of the Junior Squad were selected for International and training events and produced interesting reports of their activities. The Squad continues to meet most months. An action plan has been produced by Simon and Lawrence which has been discussed and approved by the committee.

Looking forward, this year SCOA is hosting the British Schools Championships in November. Finding a suitable area has been a problem and we are grateful that BKO have allowed us to use Black Park. Officials are now in place and permission obtained. In 2020, TVOC are hosting the British Night Champs in February and BKO the Southern Championships in January.

Sarum have notified us that they no longer wish to be members of SCOA and will now be solely members of SWOA.