

Chairman's Report for 2019 at the 2020 AGM.

The main activity in SCOA in 2019 was the hosting of the JK which involved many people in all the clubs. We were fortunate in that we had good weather in the weeks up to Easter and also throughout the weekend which made the organisational aspects of the events easier. There were very many compliments as to the quality of the organisation, the areas used and the planning with the only negative being the issues relating to the provision of the results. Di and Terry Smith, the JK coordinators, worked tirelessly and together with all the officials and helpers are to be congratulated on a very successful event.

We received a lot of late entries for the JK which meant that we significantly exceeded the budgeted number. This contributed to a very large monetary surplus for the event which is split 2/3 to BO and 1/3 to the region. Our share was over £22k. This is more than enough to cover any annual shortfall until we next host a large event at which time we will enable us to replenish our funds. What we should do with this surplus was discussed by the committee and it was agreed that the issue should be pushed back to the clubs with a request that they should canvas opinion and come up with suggestions. The main feeling reported was that the bulk of the money should be spent to develop orienteering in the region. There were several interesting ideas but, as yet, no concrete proposals have been made. A donation of £1k was made to the JROS and it has been agreed to guarantee the funding for a junior camp to be held in the New Forest on the November Classic weekend.

The region also hosted the British Schools Championships at Black Park in November with the bulk of the helpers and officials coming from BKO and TVOC.

Last year I reported on the issues we were having with land access. In particular, with the charges being levied for military land. Peter Hart, the BO CEO, spent a lot of time trying to negotiate a more favourable deal. Unfortunately, with little success. We are all grateful for all our military contacts who have been very proactive in supporting Orienteering in the region and who by putting on events such as the Wednesday league have enabled civilians to access events on the military areas.

After the problems with the lack of events in the SCOA League last year the 2019 / 20 SCOA season saw an encouraging return to the previous number of events with 6 events actually taking place before Orienteering became suspended and 10 events in the calendar.

Looking forward, it is unclear when we will get back to any form of the previous normality in terms of being able to produce a comprehensive fixtures list. SCOA had been due to host the Junior Regionals this autumn. Allan Farrington had very generously agreed to take over the coordination of the event from SOC but due to the ongoing uncertainty as to when we might get access to land administered by the DIO we have had to tell the Junior Squads that we will not be able to host the event. BKO had to postpone the Southern Championships earlier in the year due to land access clash. This has been provisionally rescheduled to November.

Eric Harper