

**Minutes of the SCOA Committee Meeting held on Thursday 4th March 2021 via
'GoToMeeting'**

Present

Eric Harper	BKO	Chair
Stefan Stasiuk	BKO	
Ian Moran	SOC	
Alan Wallis	SN	
Jon Wheatcroft	TVOC	
Simon Kippin	TVOC	SCJS
Caroline Ford	SOFA	
Liz Yeadon	SARUM	Development/Coaching
Charles Bromley Gardner	BAOC	
Bernie Fowler	BADO/BAOC	
Richard Sharp	TVOC	Fixtures Secretary
Peter Entwistle	BKO	
Fiona Clough	BKO	Secretary

1490 Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

1491 Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 17th September 2020

IM proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, LY seconded this and it was agreed by the committee.

1491 Matters arising

- Paragraph 1397 - VHI 2021. RS explained that it was still too early to discuss the scheduling a level D event for 6th November. There is a National Fixtures Meeting on 13th March and then another scheduled for early summer in which this will be discussed.

1492 Chair's Report

EH had circulated a report to the committee prior to the meeting as he had several points to make:

- Andrew Evans from the Orienteering Foundation Charity has again asked for SCOA to nominate an Ambassador as someone to be the point of contact between the association and the foundation. There are currently 4 regions without ambassadors. This has been circulated around the clubs several times without any response but EH asked that Club Reps repeat the request.
- EH informed the committee that by June he will have been in role for 3 years and in accordance with the constitution he will be standing down at that meeting. Historically the role has generally rotated through the regions clubs and it was suggested that the BADO Chair, John Harrison might consider taking it over. BF stated he would email John to see whether he would consider standing.
- At the last AGM the treasurer PE resigned and Jon Steed agreed to take on the role. For various reasons Jon never actually took over and has now said due to pressures of work that he is no longer able to fulfil the role. PE has agreed to continue to cover as Treasurer until the 2021 AGM. AW proposed that PE be co-opted back on to the committee as Treasurer, this was seconded by FC and agreed unanimously. Current signatories for the SCOA accounts are EH, FC and PE. As PE and EH are both

standing down additional signatories are required. RS volunteered and stated that he had previously been a signatory and would be happy to take that role on again.

Action: Club Reps to identify and recruit Chair and Treasurer for the AGM in June.

1493 Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

1494 Treasurer's Report

A summary of the accounts for 2020 and a draft of the year end accounts (not yet audited) had been circulated prior to the meeting and PE presented a verbal Treasurer's report that had been placed in 'Dropbox'.

For the year 2020 SCOA had a surplus of £1,535. Normally the SCOA accounts run at a deficit but the surplus is due to the various lockdowns. Receipts were the membership fees and event levy for one event but there have been very few expenses paid out. Total expenditure for 2019 was £5,493 compared to that of 2020 which was £374.

So far in 2021 the only change has been 30p interest received.

Normally in January the Treasurer sends out a request to member clubs for SCOA membership fees (£2 per adult member) however PE suggested that the committee consider reducing the membership rate for 2021 to zero. If agreed this would need to be ratified at the AGM. AW commented that at the AGM in June 2020 it was not anticipated that we would lose a full year of both income and expenditure. CBG seconded the suggestion that we reduce the membership fee to zero for 2021 and explained that this has been done in other sports that he is involved in. This needs to be added to the agenda for the AGM and EH asked that committee members inform their clubs that this is being considered.

EH confirmed that PE would NOT ask clubs for membership fees for 2021. The fee of £2 per adult member 2020, zero for 2021 and back to £2 for 2022.

Action: Club Reps to inform their committees of the suggested reduction in membership rate for 2021 and ask for it to be communicated to their members.

PE mentioned that there had been two bids for development funding from the JK2019 surplus (to be discussed later in the meeting).

TVOC for £2,390

SOC for £1,520

Total - £3,910

The JK surplus was £22,304 (grants have already been made to JROS and the Youth Camp) and if both there was agreement to support both bids this would reduce the surplus to £17,294 and leave the total balance of SCOA funds to just under £30k.

There may still be some bids received for the SCJS to attend junior competitions.

1495 Fixtures Secretary's Report

RS said he had nothing to report at this time. As mentioned earlier the next National Fixtures Meeting is on 13th March 2021. Dates for events are coming and going

depending on the 'roadmap out of lockdown' and if he finds out anything of note he will circulate it before the AGM.

Regarding the SCOA league for 2020/21, only one SCOA league event has actually taken place and there is one more scheduled. RS suggested that we abandon it for this season. This was discussed and agreed by the committee.

CBG mentioned that BAOC are hosting the Southern Night Championships in November 2021 as they failed to do so in 2020, the SN Trophy will be held on the following day. The Harvester 2023 is also being hosted by BAOC but it is being held in the North East (Catterick).

JW raised the 2021 SCOA Championships. On 23rd May TVOC have a National Event at Hambleton and the organiser may be amenable to the SCOA Championships being run at that event as there is plenty of parking and unlimited entries. JW queried whether it was perhaps too early in the year. RS said that the SCOA Champs can be held at any time of year. There was a brief discussion as to whether larger orienteering events would be permitted at that time but JW explained that it has been set up according to the previous rules therefore there was no reason for it not to go ahead. **Action: JW to approach organiser for TVOC event to see whether they are happy to host the SCOA champs.**

1496 SCJS

SK had circulated two reports from the Junior Squad, activities from September to December and a second detailing their activities December to March. He explained they had been doing a lot during lockdown primarily with zoom sessions. Some of the juniors were keen. SK suggested that running coaching sessions could be a way of clubs coming out of lockdown.

SK then explained that the 'Talent South' Trial had started. The Talent squads have now been divided into Talent Scotland, Talent South and Talent North with Mark Saunders from Wales/BOK running Talent South. Sessions have focussed on skills, athlete development plan, strength and conditioning and nutrition. They are looking for possible forest coaching sessions but still waiting for guidelines around coaching from British Orienteering. AW asked how many would be selected from each squad and SK explained that it is 20 from each region (i.e. Talent South - 20, Talent North - 20, Talent Scotland - 20). The Talent Squad South will require additional coaching support although this will probably mean the experienced regional squad coaches will spend more time with the talent squads therefore the regional squads will need more support.

SK stated that they are still keen to get younger juniors to join the SCJS and that several summer camps are being planned but will not be confirmed yet. JROS is planning a summer training camp but this is to be confirmed in June. JIRC's are scheduled to take place in Redcar in September but again the decision to confirm this will be made in June/July. Issues with JIRC's are that it is a very long way away and athletes will need to find their own accommodation.

IM asked how many are in the squad and SK explained that there are 8 regulars but that there are generally between 10 - 15 members. SK comments that they always need additional coaching volunteers to help with the squad.

1497 Coaching

LY had circulated a report prior to the meeting but mentioned the following points. The Coaching Group have concerns about the general lack of coaches and that the numbers appear to be dropping off. It is important to make moves to get them back.

There is a new requirement for coaches to complete a Safeguarding course in order to maintain their BOF Coaching Licence and this is particularly important in respect of Juniors and vulnerable adults. LY had circulated an email to SCOA coaches but that we need to spread the word to ensure everyone does it. BOF are running a number of online courses free until the end of March. **Action: Club Reps to check with their club coaches that they are aware of the Safeguarding training requirement (contact Peter Brooke at BOF for further details).**

LY asked whether any club members wanted to do a first aid course as if so she can set one up. **Action: Club Reps to check the demand for a first aid course.**

1498 Development

LY confirmed that the New Forest Junior Camp scheduled for November 2021 has been postponed until November 2022 (5th and 6th November). The booking for Burley Youth Hostel that was booked and paid for has now been transferred to the new dates.

LY said that now the Junior Camp is no longer taking place around the November Classic she wondered whether there was any scope for providing some fun orienteering based activities for juniors as were done on the rugby pitch at Aldershot during the British Sprints in 2017. This would be to provide additional activities for older juniors in addition to running the yellow or orange course. **Action: IM to confirm the organiser for November Classic 2021 and put them in contact with LY.**

1499 Technical Officer's Report

KS no longer attended the committee meetings however she had sent an email prior to the meeting regarding her concerns about the newly introduced on-line Event Safety workshop and her view that it did not cover a quarter of the actual workshop.

JW said that he agreed with KS's concerns at the apparent demise of the full course and that the tutors that had previously delivered the courses had not been notified. AW asked whether face-to-face courses had been discontinued completely. Apparently the on-line course charges £10 - £15 per head. JW explained that British Orienteering have said that online is an alternative option. RS stated that he believed it was a temporary/interim measure. CBG said that having completed it that it was a good refresher.

AW suggested that perhaps the half day courses maybe were a bit too thorough?

The initial email from KS related to the reinstatement of a SN member as a Level B controller however CBG clarified that the event in question is actually a level D and does not require SCOA committee approval (RS confirmed that the Regional Committee are only required to approve officials for level B events).

JW made a final point that the British Orienteering National Office are the ones who update qualifications on the BOF website.

1500 AOB

Funding bids

EH brought up the bids for funding from the JK2019 surplus received from TVOC and SOC and asked, although both bids had merits, whether the clubs were in a position to go ahead.

JW stated that TVOC were still keen to go ahead with their plan but at the moment would not have the events to support it.

AW stated that SN were planning to submit a similar proposal but targeting younger adults rather than juniors as they already have a good number of juniors in the club.

The committee agreed that they supported any projects aimed at supporting and increasing participation of young people.

PE pointed out that both proposals were aimed at increasing junior participation and involved coaching courses. Support for both projects will hopefully increase the number of coaches available in the region. He suggested that coaching courses may start up again by autumn 2021.

BF proposed that the committee approve funding of both projected, the proposal was seconded by CF and agreed unanimously.

PE stated that they need to agree details for the funding, updated schedules, names of people completing the courses and when feedback will be given on how they are getting on. **Action: JW and IM to go back to TVOC/SOC committees to inform them that funding has been agreed in principle and asking for updated schedules.**

IM raised the issues SOC are having with the Forestry Commission regarding fees and limiting events to 30 people, although they are allowing 30 in the morning and 30 in the afternoon. AW said that SN have made a request for an event at the end of April but have not had a reply to date. A discussion followed regarding the return to orienteering after lockdown.

LY said that she had found some SCOA cloth badges and asked who holds the badge stock for SCOA? PE explained that Glyn Thomas (BKO) does. It was agreed LY would pass the badges to a BKO member to be given to Glyn.

1501 Dates of next meetings

Thursday 3rd June 2021 (AGM and committee meeting)

TUESDAY 7th September 2021 **note this meeting scheduled for a Tuesday**

Thursday 2nd December 2021

There being no more matters to discuss the meeting closed.

Fiona Clough
Secretary SCOA
11th March 2021