



Bid for Funding from JK 19 Surplus

Aim: Our aim is to increase the number of junior members of SOC, in order to start coaching Juniors independently of Seniors and to offer a Hampshire Youth league to motivate and encourage young people in the area to take part in this great sport.

Background

SOC used to have a thriving Junior Section but unfortunately numbers have dwindled in recent years. We would like to make a concerted effort to increase numbers to assure that the club has a future.

We currently have 5/6 Junior members and this is not really enough to run separate coaching for juniors.

We would like to build numbers so that we have enough Juniors to attend their own Junior coaching sessions. This will enable us to make the sessions more child-friendly and fun. We would also like to restart a Hampshire Youth league to give young people the chance to compete against each other and hopefully progress on to the SCOA Junior Squad and enter National Competitions. We plan to bring Juniors up to the minimum standard required for them to be accepted into SCOA Junior Squad and would work with the Squad coaches to achieve that. Helen Wheelwright, the lead on this initiative, qualified as a L2 coach in September 2019 and was pleased to help out and learn at the SCOA Junior Squad training at Matley Heath recently. The Youth league would be integrated into our SOC local events to make best use of resources and is likely to run on a similar format to the successful Youth league run by Southern Navigators. If the league is successful, we would talk to other SCOA clubs about widening the remit.

We feel that we need to start offering events specifically targeted at Juniors to make it clear that we do want them in our club and we will do everything we can to cater for them. In order to deliver the Junior Coaching programme we will need to identify volunteers who are enthusiastic and willing to take the necessary qualifications and give up their time. The process will take time but we hope to have these new initiatives up and running within two to three years.

Funding Bid

Item	Description	Cost
L2 Coaching Award	For one person to help with junior coaching	£500
Introduction to Coaching Workshop	For four helpers to be trained within the club	£100
Emergency First Aid training	For the five new coaching recruits	£300
Equipment 4 thumb compasses @£40 each, £160. Laminator and laminating pouches, £30. First Aid Kit, £30 Cost of map production and colour printing, £300.	These items will need to be purchased as a minimum to be able to run a series of coaching sessions for Juniors. As the lead coach in this initiative lives some considerable way from the club store, it would best for her to keep these at her home for easy access.	£520
SOC Juniors Feather flag and/or cloth banner @£ 100	Important for group identity and marketing purposes	£100
		Total: £1,520

How are we going to encourage young people to come to our sessions?

I have started work on this initiative already and have had some promising responses.

1. In order to find out how people organised their Junior Coaching and their Youth Leagues in the past I have spoken to Pauline Olivant from the Orienteering Foundation and David Evans, an OF trustee.
2. As a qualified teacher I look forward to using and enhancing the materials I have been given to create a strong coaching scheme to be used by myself and other coaches and volunteers. I have also read the Every Junior Matters paper produced by BO. I have spoken to Liz Yeadon and read about what she has done at Sarum, thanks to a grant from Sport England, and spoken to Phil Conway about his work across the region. I have also spoken to David Nixon of SOC about the Hampshire Youth League

that he used to lead on. From this reading and discussion I have gained knowledge of coaching materials and the different models of engaging young people.

3. I have started to make contacts in the Southampton region. Through Energiseme I have made contact with three youth clubs in the Eastleigh area who would be interested in me coming in and talking about MapRunF and the Winter MapRunF Challenge I have advertised on social media - when the situation with Covid improves.
4. I have made contact with Josie Bascombe who is PE Lead for Outdoor Education within Hampshire. She will be getting back to me when she finishes her week of leave and I hope she will be supportive, as was the Hampshire County when David Nixon of SOC contacted them some years ago now.
5. I have written to Embley School to offer coaching and they are “definitely interested in talking to me about putting something together” when Covid calms down. I have contacted all Schools Games Organisers in the region and have subsequently helped one SGO in Portsmouth to put together a MapRunF course which she hopes to run as a competition for a cluster of schools once Covid allows.
6. As the de facto Head of German at Barton Peveril Sixth Form College I faced similar challenge to the ones orienteering is facing now. As one of the more difficult languages to learn, the numbers taking German A level nationally have been declining for many years. I took it upon myself to obtain a grant of £6,000 from the Goethe Institut to promote German by means of two successful annual German Days at the college. For this I was awarded a national German teacher’s Award by a former German teacher, John Le Carre. This was a very proud moment and I was also pleased to finish my career with a higher number of German students than when I started there seven years previously. I hope I can translate this success into increased numbers of Juniors enjoying orienteering. As I have worked successfully as a teacher in all sorts of schools, I would be happy to go and talk about orienteering in school assemblies and to run taster sessions.
7. I have also talked to other members of SOC who are keen to support me in this venture. We realise that it will take concerted effort on the part of all interested parties at SOC.
8. A social media campaign will be an important part of this initiative.
9. I feel that this initiative has already made good progress despite the setbacks which Covid has afforded us. I hope that we will be awarded the funding to enable us to continue and get down to the nitty gritty of coaching. This is a vital step in securing the future of SOC as a club and, as a SCOA club, we will be doing our bit to strengthen the region’s supply of young orienteers.

Helen Wheelwright SOC L2 coach