

Minutes of the SCOA Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 9th June 2022
(held virtually on 'GoToMeeting')

Present

Jon Wheatcroft	TVOC	Chair/Club Rep
Martin Ricketts	TVOC	Treasurer
Richard Sharp	TVOC	Fixtures Secretary
Fiona Clough	BKO	Secretary/Club Rep
Liz Yeadon	SARUM	Coaching/Development/Club Rep
Simon Kippin	TVOC	SCJS
Ian Moran	SOC	Club Rep
Charles Bromley Gardner	BAOC	Club Rep

1. Apologies

Lois Parker	OUOC
Alan Wallis	SN
Di Smith	SOC
Stefan Stasiuk	BKO

2. Minutes of last AGM 3rd June 2021

The minutes were reviewed by those present and agreed to be a true record of the proceedings – proposed by JW and seconded by LY.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous AGM.

4. Chair's report

In brief JW expressed his disappointment that the region had been unable to host the 2021 VHI and that we had to be 'rescued' by SEOA who took the events on.

There had been long running issues with the SCOA Bank Account.

Although JW felt he lacked some networking skills he had succeeded in securing key main officials for BRC/BOC 2023 and a planner and temporary coordinator for SHI Relays 2022.

JW stated that through the year he had been most impressed by all the volunteers especially the Junior Squad coaches who gave so much time, expertise, and energy to their work with juniors.

RS suggested that JW had been a little harsh regarding the inability of SCOA to take on the VHI in 2021 and that it was mainly due to the problems with the requirement to have confirmed land access permission earlier than the landowners were prepared to grant.

5. Treasurer's report

MR had circulated a report prior to the AGM and gave a verbal explanation of the various points. Having taken over the role of Treasurer during the pandemic this was his first AGM in the role. The accounts for 2021 have again been largely affected by Covid and the

decision to cancel the membership fee for the year. This meant that the sole source of income for SCOA was levies from events that had taken place within the region. Income from levies for 2021 is £1,187 which is back to 75% of the 2019 figure (£1,581) after dropping to £626 in 2020.

Expenditure from the main account has totalled £2,792 being £539 to the EOC and the rest being awards to various courses and training (the main one being to SOC).

SCOA traditionally funds all the routine Junior Squad activities (JROS, JIRCS, Training sessions and local weekend training) during the year and this is done by SCOA making an annual grant to the squad to cover those expenses with any surplus being effectively lost at the end of the year.

SCJS also has a 'Development Reserve' mad up primarily of donations to the squad plus any money received from its own fund raising. This fund currently stands at £1,226. Due to the exceptional circumstances of the last 2 years plus the change of Treasurer the 2021 grant to SCJS has not been paid. In order that the Development Reserve is restored SCOA must make a retrospective grant to the SCJS to cover the 2021 routine activities of the difference between the balance and the Reserve amount - £1,086. This transfer is shown as having been completed.

MR produced a summary of the accounts and stated that the main account has been reduced by £2,600 and the SCJS account has been reduced by £230.

There are levies from 2 events that took place in November that have not been paid (BAOC and SN events).

It was predicted that the account balance would be reduced to £30K by the end of 2021 but in fact has only reduced to £32K however this is because the TVOC grant has yet to be paid. The JK surplus of £19,700 is considered as a separate fund and therefore not detailed in the accounts.

MR stated he had not had the chance to have the accounts audited yet and would endeavour to have it done as soon as possible. After a short discussion it was agreed that MR should ensure it was done in time for the next committee meeting.

Proposal

MR then proposed that if SCOA cannot use the JK2019 surplus that they should consider reducing the membership fee and event levy and **suggested that the AGM consider dropping the membership fee to £1 from £2 and the event levy to 30p from 45p.**

MR explained that the membership income of £2 generates around £1,200 annually and the event levy generates between £2,5K and £3K.

MR expected that if SCOA implemented the suggested reductions that it would reduce the income by around £1,200 per annum.

This proposal was then discussed at length by the AGM. MR explained that the last review of membership and levy rates was done in 2014 and it was at that time that they were raised to current levels. This was to enable an expected annual deficit of between £1.2K and £1.8k.

The debate progressed to how to better develop the sport, subsidised coaching, more money being allocated to the SCJS. JW asked whether there were any further projects in the pipeline? MR responded that there would be an increase in the cost sending the SCJS to Northern Ireland for the JIRC's in September and there was also a bid from TVOC for funding towards a TVOC junior squad and coaching activities. IM suggested that perhaps the region could run an additional junior camps every year.

SK stated there are several issues:

- i) Currently there are just not enough coaches but that is being addressed by recent coach training.
- ii) Getting juniors in at club level.
- iii) Area access problems, landowners are increasingly making charges even for a small junior squad training session.

IM said that to encourage juniors we need them to attend 2-day events such as the Midland or Northern Champs where there are enough junior for there to be critical mass and it is exciting for them. SK said main factors are time factors for parents and with older juniors, the clash with exams.

JW said that if money needs to be spent on land access, then we need to spend it. SK said Nettlebed charges £80 per visit, Kingswood £40.50 and the New Forest which is a particularly good area charges between £100 - £200 per day. JW said that if it makes setting sessions up any easier then to pay it – the AGM agreed with this unanimously.

IM said that at the Tamar Triple multi-day event recently there were loads of M/W65's and only a handful of juniors. SK explained that it is exam time. We need to encourage more 12-year-olds, clubs need to encourage more families and should provide training for both juniors and their parents so they can all join in.

JW than asked for a vote by SCOA club reps on the proposal by MR to reduce both the membership fee and event levy. It was agreed to maintain current levels by the representatives of 5 SCOA clubs (SOC - IM, TVOC – JW, BAOC – CBG, BKO – FC and SARUM – LY). Current levels being £2 per senior membership fee and levy 45p per senior.

IM proposed that the AGM formally adopt the Treasurers Report, this was seconded by LY and agreed by the AGM.

6. Fixtures

RS had produced and circulated a report prior to the meeting but then explained that it was difficult to make any meaningful comparisons with previous years as events have still been heavily affected by Covid restrictions.

IM asked whether there had been any feedback from SOC re 'Mapruns' (counted as activities) and RS responded that there had not.

7. Coaching/Development

LY produced a report that had been circulated prior to the meeting and explained that she is pleased that there are currently 7 people attending a Level 2 Coaching course. The course is being delivered by Chris Poole and assisted by LY. Of the 7 people attending the course, 4 of them are SCOA members and they were all fully funded by a SCOA grant from the JK2019 surplus. Their last session is scheduled for the coming weekend and then they need to undertake their 5 linked sessions.

LY then stated that she is trying to arrange a (self-funding) Coaching Conference for January 2023. The individual who normally does this with her is currently not well enough to be involved. FC has agreed to help.

LY then moved to Development and asked when the 2022 SCOA Championships would be held as she needed to know for medals. RS said that he would deal with this in the committee meeting.

8. SCJS

SK had circulated the SCOA Junior Squad Annual Report 2021 – 2022 to the AGM prior to the meeting detailing the current make-up of the squad, training sessions done since the last AGM.

The achievements of the squad athletes in the last 12 months have been outstanding. The SCJS achieved their best result in the JIRCS since 2014.

SK mentioned that the Badaguish camp has now been replaced by one being held in the Czech Republic (Ben and Zuzka Windsor).

SK also informed the AGM that he is now one of the England Selectors – JW congratulated him.

9. Technical Officer

Katy Stubbs who no longer attends these meetings had not circulated a report for the AGM.

10. Proposals

There were no further proposals than the one already dealt with in the Treasurer's section.

11. Election of Officers

JW stated that all current incumbent officers had indicated a willingness to continue in their roles and that there had been no enquiries from anyone else wishing to be considered. LY explained that in lieu of a volunteer that she was willing to continue to keep a 'listening watch' on development issues.

Chair – JW took over the position in 2021 and was willing to continue. He was proposed by FC and seconded by LY.

All the remaining role holders were proposed by JW and seconded by LY.

All officials were elected unopposed and unanimously.

12. AOB

FC said that AF had emailed her about a SCOA League Club Champs Cup and suggested that EMIT might be willing to have it replated. FC will discuss it with AF and report back to the next committee meeting.

IM stated that he would like to thank all the committee for their sterling work over the last 12 months.

There being no further matters for discussion the AGM closed.

Fiona Clough
Secretary SCOA
18th June 2022