

Minutes of the SCOA Committee Meeting held on Thursday 7th September
2023 at 1930 – on Teams

Present

Jon Wheatcroft	TVOC	Chair
Fiona Clough	BKO	Secretary & Interim Treasurer
Simon Kippin	TVOC	Junior Squad
Ian Moran	SOC	Club Rep
Debbie Robinson	SN	Club Rep

1624 Apologies for absence

Di Smith	SOC	
Liz Yeadon	SARUM	Coaching & Development
Charles Bromley Gardner	BAOC	Club Rep
Richard Sharp	TVOC	Fixtures (came in at the end)
Simon Moore	BKO	Club Rep

1625 Minutes of AGM held on 1st June 2023

AGM minutes were reviewed for accuracy (to be approved at next AGM) and agreed they were an accurate representation of the meeting.

1626 Minutes of the Committee meeting held after the AGM on 1st June 2023

The minutes were reviewed and accepted to be an accurate record. Proposed by JW and seconded by IM.

1627 Matters arising

- Paragraph 1603 – IM had confirmed that LY's assistance was not required.
- Paragraph 1616 – Officials for event 17th June on BOF website – complete.
- Paragraph 1617 – Officials for Nov Classic 2024 approved – KS informed.
- Paragraph 1622 – BKO committee informed that funding granted.
- Paragraph 1622 – status of SCOA Badge system to be confirmed – ongoing.

1628 Chair's Report

JW had circulated a short report to members prior to the meeting but stated that he would particularly like to offer congratulations to Sarah Rollins (SN) for winning three medals at the recent World Masters Championships held in Slovakia in August. The entire committee agreed with this and asked that the secretary write formally to Sarah to congratulate her on her success. **Action: FC to send formal letter of congratulation to Sarah Rollins.**

JW then brought up the issues SCOA have been having since the Treasurer resigned with no replacement identified. This potentially paralyzed SCOA and prevented the payment of grants to the SCOA juniors who have had a busy summer attending camps and competitions in Europe. FC had obtained full access to the accounts in August and together with JW had then expedited all the pending applications. Many thanks to FC for her efforts but we need to find a replacement Treasurer because although SCOA finances are very healthy we need to agree a budget and move money between accounts. A discussion followed around the

time required to complete this role (estimated to be perhaps an hour or two a month).

Action: Club Reps to actively recruit a Treasurer

1629 Treasurer's Report

FC had taken on the role of Interim Treasurer to ensure payments of outstanding grants be made, had balanced the accounts, and produced a short report detailing expenditure and income for the period June to the end of August.

FC stated that income had been received from event levies and the SCOA part of the BOC/BRC surplus but there had been several outstanding levies. SN had recently paid the outstanding levy for the Cove Urban held in June and there were two more payments outstanding from TVOC events. JW stated that TVOC had a new Treasurer who needed details of how much to pay and into which account. **Action: JW to send new Treasurer (Janusz Hollander) email to FC.**

JW repeated thanks to FC for all her hard work with this.

1630 Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

1631 Fixtures

RS had circulated a report to the committee prior to the meeting but was not in attendance at the time this section was discussed. A date issue was identified with the paragraph relating to the SCOA League which related to the 2023 to 24 season rather than the 2024 to 25 season.

RS had asked whether the SN event at Hogmoor could be used as a SCOL event – DR responded that that would be fine.

RS had asked the question as there were currently only 3 events (4 including the SN event) should we run a SCOA League this year? This was discussed by the committee, and they took to view that more events may come on to the list and that we should run the league.

RS raised the issue with a number of forthcoming events that did not have the officials details on the British Orienteering Website. Most pressingly was the Winchester Urban scheduled for the day before the November Classic that had also been listed as a Level B event whereby the officials need approval from the SCOA committee (to be covered in the TO's report).

The final point on RS's report was that we still lack a SCOA round for the YBT 2024 and he suggested that perhaps the TVOC event at Hodgemoor on 19/05/2024 might be appropriate. **Action: JW to suggest to TVOC committee that Hodgemoor event in 2024 could be the SCOA YBT Heat.**

1632 Technical Officers Report

KS had circulated a report to committee member prior to the meeting but due to issues with 'Teams' was unable to join the meeting.

Primarily there was a reminder to committee members and to SCOA clubs that there has been a rule change from the beginning of 2023 that Level B events no longer need to have a Controller from a different region, but they MUST be from a different club and 'perceived to be able to act independently of event officials. It does still say that ideally the Controller would be from a different region.

Approval of event officials for forthcoming Level B events

BAOC urban 4th November 2023 – FC stated that there have been discussions via e-mail this afternoon about downgrading this to level C, discussions ongoing between RS and CBG. If the conclusion is that the event will continue as a level B then the committee agreed that KS has delegated authority to authorise officials if she feels they are appropriate.

Chiltern Challenge 10th December 2023 – officials discussed and approved by the committee.

Concorde chase 28th January 2024 – officials discussed and approved by the committee.

KS then raised an issue she has with administering the whole process of confirming nominated officials, establishing whether they have appropriate qualifications and experience prior to approval being sought through the committee. The system is currently time intensive for KS who must regularly review the BOF events database for events and any changes to the events proposed. **Action: FC to email RS to ask that he undertake to email Katy details of forthcoming level B events on the region and where there have been changes to the proposed events.**

KS also asked that SCOA Club Reps notify her of who is responsible within their club for arranging/appointing officials. **Action: Club Reps to establish and confirm with KS who arranges/appoints officials.**

The final point made by KS in her report was to ask for delegated authority to approve officials for events unless the proposed officials do not meet current guidelines. This was discussed fully by the committee who considered the reasoning behind the request together with current practice of other regions. It was agreed unanimously to delegate that authority to KS as suggested. JW stated that KS was 'an authority universally respected' and that the committee was happy to delegate this authority.

Post meeting note from JW: SCOA Champs are being held at the Chiltern Challenge on 10/12/23 and LY has organised the medals. TVOC are confident of being able to award them on the day.

1633 Coaching/Development

LY had sent her apologies, but a short report had been circulated prior to the meeting. JW sent his thanks for her ongoing efforts in supporting club coaches.

1634 Junior Squad

SK had circulated a report detailing the activities of the Junior Squad athletes this summer and mentioned they had been attending training camps and competitions in the UK and overseas. SK also thanks FC and JW for their efforts in ensuring that the grants to the Junior athletes had been paid. He did say he had a selection of reports from the squad about the various events and camps they had attended and the things they had done. Additionally, Mark Nixon has returned to the area and has offered to support squad training throughout the next year.

The squad is currently preparing for the JIRCS being held at the end of September in Wales. Unfortunately, they have not been able to identify any W14's to join the squad so they will struggle to be competitive against other squads. A discussion followed about the shortfall in certain age groups in the squad and progressed to how to get more juniors in to the sport.

IM mentioned the junior training camp that has been run the day before the November Classic for several years and stated there are Scout campsites with accommodation that would be an alternative if the Youth Hostel was not available. SK stated they are in the early stages of organising that at this time.

Discussions on how to encourage more juniors into the sport continued and DR asked whether anyone had success with schools and scout groups who may be willing to share ideas. SK said that some initiatives had been discussed at previous Development and Coaching conferences.

IM said that when he was at university orienteering was a huge thing but that he felt social media had taken its toll. He has memories of going to the large events. Nowadays we introduce newcomers to the sport at small events with only 50 to 100 people. Perhaps we should start them at the larger events, so they see how big events can be and how many people take part.

IM also suggested that Mapruns, and, in particular those around university campuses might be a way of encouraging more university students into the sport.

JW concluded this section with a message of 'Well Done' to all the SCOA junior squad athletes for all their hard work this year.

FC mentioned that the Junior Squad Standard Permit under S19 of the Transport Act 1985 had expired. **Action: FC to liaise with LT/SK to arrange renewal.**

1635 BOC/BRC final update

PF (weekend co-ordinator) had circulated a final update. JW said that many thanks on behalf of the committee should go to all the officials involved in delivering the weekend, planners, controllers, day organisers and particularly to PF who took on the role of co-ordinator and who pulled everything together so well. The surplus exceeded expectations and is in the bank.

1636 The Orienteering Foundation update

There was no TOF update for this meeting.

1637 Any other business

JW brought up the subject of SCOA bank signatories. The constitution states the following:

All cheques drawn against the Association's funds shall be signed by any two of the Treasurer, the Chairman, the Secretary, and the Fixtures Secretary. If any of these roles remain unfilled, the committee may appoint other Officers of the Association as authorised signatories.

Currently the signatories are JW, FC and RS. It was felt that an additional signatory would be sensible, and IM agreed to take on that role. **Action: FC to endeavour to add IM to the bank account signatories (and establish who currently has Administration rights on the account).**

1638 Proposed dates of future meetings

Thursday 7th December 2023

Thursday 7th March 2024