

**Minutes of the SCOA Committee Meeting held at 1930 on 12th September 2024 on
'Zoom'**

Present

Ian Moran	SOC	Chair
Fiona Clough	BKO	Secretary/Interim Treasurer
Richard Sharp	TVOC	Fixtures Secretary
Liz Yeadon	SARUM	Development Officer & Club Rep
David Currie	SOC	Club Rep
Debbie Robinson	SN	Club Rep
Peter Riches	TVOC	Club Rep
Jon Wheatcroft	TVOC	Co-opted Committee member
Charles Bromley Gardner	BAOC	Club Rep
Trish Monks	BKO	Treasurer

1676 Apologies for absence

Chris Poole	TVOC	New Coaching Officer
Simon Moore	BKO	Club Rep

1677 Review of minutes of committee meeting held on 21st June 2024

The minutes of the previous committee meeting were reviewed and held to be an accurate record.

1678 Review of the AGM minutes also held on 21st June

AGM minutes were reviewed for accuracy (to be approved at next AGM). A note was to be added that the AGM agreed for JW to remain as a signatory for the SCOA bank account until such time as the new Treasurer and Chair were added to it. It was then agreed they were an accurate representation of the meeting

1679 Matters arising

Paragraph 1637 – FC to put IM and TM on the bank account – complete.

Paragraph 1670 – KS to notify BOF of the appointment of 2 new controllers – complete.

Paragraph 1673 – TOF – Club Reps to go back to committees to ask what the big and main issues are facing clubs. A discussion followed where the Club Reps identified the following points: permissions and land access, volunteers, parking, lack of juniors and the general age profile of the sport. **Action: IM to send result of discussions to TOF.**

1680 Chair's Report

IM opened his report to the committee by offering his thanks to JW for all his hard work on behalf of SCOA and all the orienteers in the region over the past 3 years when he was Chair. Additionally, IM expressed his thanks to LY (outgoing Coaching Officer) and Ken Ricketts (who ran the SCOA league for a very long time) for all their hard work.

IM then informed the meeting that one issue that has emerged recently is that the SCOA Website needs a volunteer to take it over. Tim Booth has managed it for many years is now standing down due to ill health. A discussion followed around permitting committee members more access to make changes and add material. **Action: Club Reps to identify willing candidates to take over running the SCOA Website.**

Finally, IM wanted to mention the SCOA Juniors who have had a very busy summer attending international events. SCOA have been very well represented in EYOC, JWOC and several other events. Well done to all.

1681 Interim Treasurer's Report

FC had circulated a report on the current financial situation for SCOA detailing payments made and income received prior to the meeting.

Affiliation fees for 3 more clubs had been received (for SN, BKO and BADO) and since issuing the report OUOC has paid too. This leaves JOK, RAFO, RNOC and WightO affiliation fees unpaid.

One levy payment had been paid (SN Aldershot Urban). FC updated that following the report the outstanding levy (BADO Urban in June) has been paid so all levy payments are up to date.

Due to the delay in adding IM and TM to the SCOA bank account JW had continued to act as co-signatory to payments. It had been pointed out that this is not correct. The SCOA Constitution states the following:

24. CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

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.

Although it talks about 'cheques' the meaning obviously includes bank transfers as they are now the main method of making payment. Since the AGM SCOA had been operating with FC covering both Secretary and Treasurer role, RS as Fixtures Secretary and IM as the new Chair. As IM was not a signatory JW had continued to co-authorise payments until the new Chair and Treasurer's had been put on the account.

A discussion followed around appointing a Vice Chair to provide resilience to the committee. It was agreed and IM undertook to advertise the position in his next SCOA update report to the Club committees and it would be an agenda item at the next meeting. **Action: IM to advertise for a Vice-Chair**

1682 Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

1683 Fixtures

RS had circulated a report prior to the meeting and made the following points to highlight:

1. The forthcoming SCOA league has a good number of events in 2024 including 2 from SWOA that are close to the border and 1 SN event (SCOL6 at Wellington College) however there are currently only 1 or 2 in the first half of 2025.

2. There are quite a few events missing officials. These are on his report and RS asked that Club Reps look at the list and update the BOF website as soon as possible.
3. The forthcoming SOC event (Bentley & Fritham) will also be a SCOA league event in January.

1684 Technical Officer's Report

KS no longer generally attended committee meeting but had circulated a report to members prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

1685 Coaching/Development

Chris Poole as the new Coaching Officer had sent his apologies. LY provided a final update on the recent coaching course. Two from the course will probably not complete the required sessions to qualify however one recently trained coach from the RAF at High Wycombe is keen to complete the sessions asap.

1686 Junior Squad

Laurence Townley had circulated a report detailing the Junior Squad activities, highlights of the previous 3 months and the planned activities. IM commented that the quality of the SCOA juniors is excellent, but we still need more juniors in the squad. More M/W12 and M/W14 athletes. IM also commented that Simon and Laurence are doing a great job with the SCOA juniors, committee members agreed.

DR initiated a discussion around Club Junior Coaching. LY stated that SARUM had, prior to Covid, set up a junior orienteering club every term time week that had been successful however now the juniors were several years older and were expected to complete more difficult courses when they had not had the gradual build-up, they would have had in normal circumstances. To do this you need someone dedicated to it.

DR said that in her view Club Training was not as competitive and much more enjoyable for the new juniors. They get to meet other juniors so when they go to bigger events there are other juniors they have already met. This may encourage them to continue with the sport.

TM stated that she has started a new job in a private school in Bagshot that has an orienteering map of the school grounds and a POC and believed that a few of our local private schools have POC's and maps of their school grounds.

TM suggested that perhaps groups of school children might go to the MLS events on a Wednesday. Colin Dickson had been willing to provide for Duke of Edinburgh kids when asked. This suggestion needs to be explored to assess how practical it is (course closure time – school interest – DIO cost).

IM said he would include the suggestion in his SCOA update and add it to the agenda for the next meeting with a view to considering it possibly for the MLS early summer season 2025. **Action: IM to include in the SCOA update newsletter.**

1687 AOB

PR had asked that the committee review the SCOA Grants & Awards Policy relating to 'Interland' and Home Internationals where the athlete represents a country other than England.

The last time the SCOA Grants and Awards Policy was reviewed was at the June 2010 committee meeting and FC had circulated a copy of the 2010 review compiled by Jerry Newcombe (the then Treasurer) and some notes on the context from Jerry.

PR explained that he was looking for clarity as it appeared that we would only provide financial support to athletes running for England and that he felt all SCOA affiliated athletes should be treated equally.

At the time the current Grants & Awards Policy was agreed the situation was different as there was funding received from Sport England that has since been cut off

The following points were discussed:

- Should a proportion of Transport costs be included?
- Set an upper limit (per claim or annual);
- It is to enable 'Representation' if it were an Australian athlete, member of SCOA, wanting to go to Australia – would we fund a percentage of transport costs?
- Depends on the ability of SCOA to give such Grants (how much money we have in the bank).

It was agreed at this time to permit the Treasurer to continue to pay Grants (including a proportion of transport costs) until this question is resolved. **Action: TM and FC to produce updated Grants & Awards Policy proposal**

1688 Proposed dates of future meetings

Thursday 5th December 2024

Thursday 6th March 2025

Thursday 5th June 2025 AGM and Committee meeting

Fiona Clough
Secretary SCOA
4th October 2024