

Minutes of the SCOA Committee Meeting held at 1930 on Thursday 5th December 2024 on 'Zoom'

Present

Ian Moran	SOC	Chair & Club Rep
Fiona Clough	BKO	Secretary & Club Rep
Liz Yeadon	SARUM	Club Rep
Debbie Robinson	SN	Club Rep
Peter Riches	TVOC	Club Rep
Trish Monks	BKO	Treasurer
Chris Poole	TVOC	Coaching Officer
Simon Kippin	TVOC	SCJS

1689 Apologies for absence

David Currie	SOC	Club Rep (covered by IM)
Richard Sharp	TVOC	Fixtures
Alan Kersley	BADO	Club Rep

1690 Review of minutes of meeting held on 12th September 2024

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

1691 Matters arising

Paragraph 1673 – main issues raised by the clubs to be sent to TOF – complete.

Paragraph 1680 – identify & recruit willing candidate to take over SCOA website. Jerry Newcombe has moved the website away from Tim Booth but new website host has yet to be identified **Action: Club Reps to continue to look for someone to take on the website.**

Paragraph 1681 – Vice Chair recruitment. IM has not identified anyone suitable/willing. FC reminded him that Jon Wheatcroft had volunteered for the role to provide the committee with resilience. FC nominated Jon for that role – committee unanimously agreed **JW now Vice Chair.** Action complete. (FC will inform JW of his election).

Paragraph 1688 – **Action: TM & FC to produce updated Grants & Awards Policy**

Proposal – FC stated that she and TM had produced a budget for 2024 and 2025 but had not had time to produce Grants proposal – **ongoing.**

1692 Chair's report.

IM had circulated a report to the committee prior to the meeting and said that rather than repeat that he wanted to particularly mention the website. Jerry Newcombe has taken charge of the SCOA website for the time being however the website is tired and dated looking and there are some aspects that are out of date and need upgrading particularly the virus protection. It may need to be moved to a new provider with a higher level of software. IM had asked David Currie to look at it and make recommendations. 'Drupal' is the current software, the same as the SOC website. The action from paragraph 1680 is ongoing to find someone to take over the website.

1693 Treasurer's Report

TM had circulated a report detailing the movements in and out of the accounts and the end of period balances and then asked for views on the proposed budget for what remains of 2024 and the new budget proposal for 2025.

SK had also circulated the SCJS Plan for 2025 detailing current squad activities, squad health (in numbers) and current coaches. In the report he also reviewed the action plan 2023 to 24. The final page of the report detailed the proposed SCJS Budget for 2025 requesting the 2025 Grant to the Junior Squad be increased to £3,450. FC stated that due to the healthy balance in the Junior Squad's account that no grant had been given for 2024.

The proposed expenditure was discussed (training weekends, purchase of new kit and a Tent shelter) in addition to expenditure to take the squad to JIRCS, JROS, training days, weekend trips and finally renewal of First Aid training for Coaches. SK said that the JIRCS 2025 would be in the Lake District and would entail hiring a minibus to get the squad there. This would be more expenditure than usual.

SK said that the squad generally contribute towards various training events, for example they are paying £25 each towards the Xmas event.

IM proposed that the committee approve the Junior Squad budget for 2025, seconded by FC and agreed unanimously.

FC proposed that the SCOA budgets for both 2024 and 2025 (increasing the SCJS Grant to £3,450) be adopted, this was seconded by IM and agreed unanimously.

1694 Secretary's report

Nothing to report.

1695 Fixtures report

Although unable to attend this meeting RS had circulated a report to committee members prior to the meeting containing several points. The forthcoming SN event at Wellington College does not have a Controller shown on the BOF website. DR stated that Colin Dickson is the Controller, and she will update the BOF website.

SOC event 19/01/25 has no controller shown – IM to chase that with the SOC Committee [Post minute note: Karen French, BOF website updated] and BKO's event scheduled for 13/04/25 at Bloom Wood has no officials shown. FC explained that we because no officials (except Mark Thompson as Controller) had been identified but the BOF website would be updated when they were confirmed.

LY asked that as the SCOA Championships were at the Concorde Chase was it planned to hand out medals on the day of the event? This was discussed and the general opinion was that it is tricky to do that on the day as some potential medal winners could still be out on their courses until late in the day. The suggestion was to hold an award ceremony

on the next SCOA event when championship results had been confirmed. FC said she would discuss this with the co-organiser for the Concorde Chase (Jane Courtier – BKO).

RS, in his report stated that SCOA still needed to identify a CSC Heat for 22nd February 2026 **Action: Club Reps to take to committees.** DR informed the committee that although SN are hosting the 2025 CSC Heat (LVN) they are still waiting for approval from Natural England. Landmarc have issued a licence but nothing from Natural England. Natural England will not deal directly with the club but insist on only dealing with the landowner. IM asked whether the BOF access person could be any help and DR stated she had tried that without success.

Discussions then moved on to the last point on RS's report relating to British Schools competitions. FC said that BKO had organised one of the British Schools events at Black Park but that they didn't really provide value to clubs in new members and just used volunteers. It was also suggested that the British Schools organisation was struggling to get teams to attend and that the competitions were apparently dying out. LY pointed out that due to Covid the juniors that were coming through were without the necessary skills.

RS asked that the final point be a reminder that the last SCOL event of 2024 is being held on 15th December at Godshill hosted by Wimbourne Orienteers entries closing on 8th December.

1696 Technical Officer

KS had circulated a report prior to the meeting with the main point being that she was recommending that Paul Fox be approved by the committee to be appointed a Grade B Controller. This was discussed and agreed unanimously. **Action: KS to update BOF and FC to notify Paul.**

1697 Coaching

CP had circulated a report prior to the meeting stating that he had adopted LY's method of gathering information on coaching activities across the region and that it appeared that there was not much going on except for SN and SOC. A discussion followed as to how newcomers get coaching when starting orienteering and whether clubs offered coaching for newcomers at local events.

1698 Junior Squad

SK had circulated a report to the committee prior to the meeting and made several points. JIRC's in September went well although SCJS did not field a full team they were joined by 4 new athletes at the last minute who are keen to return to join for some coaching. SWJS accommodated us too and the relay event started at 0800 which enabled everyone to get home earlier.

The squad has had one zoom session and one forest coaching session. We need to encourage the families of the juniors to go to the training sessions to be coached in orienteering techniques rather than just going to events and running the Yellow or White courses when they should be doing the Orange.

The annual M/W16 JROS camp at Hawkshead was a good weekend despite the snow and rain. The JROS Committee had a meeting and Nev Myers who has chaired the committee for a long time has stood down and the new chair is Tom Bray.

1699 AOB

- RS had asked for the future of the SCOA League to be considered as there was little or no apparent interest or knowledge of the league at the last prize giving. A discussion followed with everyone fully supporting the continuation of the SCOA League (SCOL) but it was felt that we need to increase the publicity around the events. LY said that SWOA also has a League (SWOL) and that as they are on the border that SARUM often host events that are both SWOL and SCOL events. It was felt that if the league had a higher profile, it would encourage more competitors to enter the events. TM pointed out that as a relative newcomer to the sport that it is beset by acronyms and terminology and some sort of readily available explanation of them would be useful. **Action: TM to identify obscure and possibly confusing acronyms and orienteering terminology to possibly post on the rejuvenated SCOA website.**
- DR had asked whether it would be possible to put a list of SCOA Controllers on the website as she had struggled to find a SCOA controller recently. SEOA has a list on their website, why not SCOA? KS retains the up-to-date list of active controllers. **Action: IM to speak to KS about the viability of putting the list on the SCOA website.**
- IM wanted to further discuss encouraging school participation in orienteering. Further to previous discussions Allan Farrington and Colin Dickson have said it is okay for school children to attend MLS events on Wednesdays, but it might require courses staying open later than 1500. TM said that she has mentioned it to the Head at her school (Hall Grove, Bagshot) and they showed an interest, but nothing further has happened. **Action: IM to put together some information to send to clubs to further contact their local schools to assess interest, also contact Melanie Elkington (British Schools).**
- IM initiated a discussion around newsletters and sending a periodic update from SCOA to clubs to be sent to their members to improve the profile of SCOA. A discussion followed regarding how often newsletters were sent out by different clubs. CP said that TVOC send one out almost weekly via 'mail-chimp'. SOC send out a weekly newsletter by email.
- Overall, it was felt that SCOA needs to work harder on publicity and part of that is the updating and transformation of the website. To be added to future agendas.

1700 Proposed dates of future meetings:

Thursday 6th March 2025

Thursday 5th June 2025 AGM and Committee Meeting

Thursday 4th September 2025

Fiona Clough
Secretary SCOA
11th December 2025