

**Minutes of the SCOA Committee Meeting held at 1930 on Thursday 6th March
2025 on 'Zoom'**

Present

Ian Moran	SOC	Chair
Fiona Clough	BKO	Secretary & Club Rep
Trish Monks	BKO	Treasurer
Debbie Robinson	SN	Club Rep
David Currie	SOC	Club Rep
Jon Wheatcroft	TVOC	Vice-Chair & Club Rep
Richard Sharp	TVOC	Fixtures
Simon Kippin	TVOC	SCJS

1701 Apologies for absence

Pete Riches	TVOC	JW in lieu
Simon Moore	BKO	FC in lieu
Liz Yeadon	SARUM	
Chris Poole	TVOC	Coaching
Alan Kersley	BADO	

1702 Review of minutes of meeting held on 5th December 2024

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

1703 Matters arising

Paragraph 1680 **Club Reps to identify & recruit someone to take on the SCOA Website** – to be covered in Agenda item 11 – Website.

Paragraph 1688 **Grants & Awards Policy Proposal** – to be covered after discussions on Website & Publicity.

Paragraph 1695 – **CSC Heat 2026** - to be covered in Fixtures.

Paragraph 1696 – **Paul Fox appointment to Grade B Controller** – complete.

Paragraph 1699 – **Orienteering acronyms & orienteering terminology** – ongoing.

Paragraph 1699 – **IM to put together info to send to clubs to send on to schools** - ongoing.

1704 Chair's Report

IM had circulated a report prior to the meeting and said that he particularly wanted to say, well done to all the SCOA members who took part in 'Interland' and contributed to England's win this year. Also, to the three students who took part in the British Universities and Colleges Sports Orienteering Champs (BUCS).

IM had also reviewed the SCOA League results for 2023 – 2024 (SN being the winners) but was disappointed that the 2024 – 2025 results had not been updated. RS said he had been unable to get hold of Rob Mullens (BKO) who had agreed to take over from Ken Ricketts but understood he had recently changed jobs so may be finding himself too busy to cover this role too. Paul Thwaites (SOC) had also expressed a willingness to take on the role if Rob was no unable to do it. **Action: FC to contact Rob Mullens.**

1705 Treasurer's Report

TM had circulated a report to the committee prior to the meeting showing the transactions that had taken place between December and the end of February and said that she has completed the accounts for 2024. They have gone to Alan Kersley (BADO) who has kindly agreed to review them prior to the AGM.

Grants have been made to Duncan Currie (for Interland) and Adam Methven (Pre JWOC) and the Junior Squad have finally bought their new tent (funding agreed several meetings ago). TM said that SCOA is still in a strong position financially.

TM then asked questions regarding affiliation fees and levies it was agreed that FC would brief her on how these are calculated.

TM then asked what 'Interland' is. It was explained that it is an international competition where England competes annually in a six-cornered match against two Belgian teams (Flemish & French speaking), the Netherlands, the French Ligue des Hauts de France do Course d'Orientation (LHFCO) and Luxembourg. Age groups range from W/M14 to W/M60+. The 2025 Interland took place on 2nd March in the Netherlands.

SK mentioned that the SCOA website still shows Jerry Newcombe as Treasurer and suggested TM arrange for that to be updated.

1706 Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

1707 Fixtures

RS had circulated a report prior to the meeting and said that the action (paragraph 1695 in matters arising) to establish a host club for the 2026 SCOA CSC Heat on 22nd February had still not been resolved however SOC did have an event scheduled for that date. DC said that although that is a coincidence that SOC are keen to support the CSC however they would need to change the location of that event as the current location is not big enough. Possibly move it to Kings Garn Gutter.

RS then asked FC regarding the forthcoming BKO event at Bloom Wood that is scheduled to be a SCOA League event but has no officials shown. FC undertook to check and confirm whether the event was still taking place and to ensure the officials were updated on the BOF website. **[post meeting note: the date was changed to 5th May – Bank Holiday Monday – pending confirmation of permission, officials updated.]**

DR said that the only area SN have that is big enough to host a CSC is Horsell Common (discussion regarding Martian landing/War of the Worlds followed) but that it was a SE area, would that be okay. It was agreed that there would be no issue. DR said the parking would be the main issue and that she would investigate it and report back. **Action: DR to investigate the possibility of SN hosting the 2026 CSC Heat at Horsell Common.**

1708 Technical Officer's Report

KS had circulated a report prior to the meeting (she no longer attends meetings). IM reiterated the point that as a region we are very short of qualified Controllers and that club committees should be actively recruiting new ones.

DR said that there has been a recent email sent out by BOF informing Club Fixtures Secretaries that if they require a Controller for an event but cannot find one to email them and they will sort out the nearest one to the event.

1709 Coaching/Development

CP had sent his apologies.

1710 Junior Squad

SK had circulated a report to the committee prior to the meeting and mentioned the following points. The report provided a graph showing the total number of squad members, the clubs they came from and their age groups. The squad currently totals 25. Several new juniors have joined the mailing list and need to be encouraged to join in the training sessions. This will balance the number of athletes that have disappeared in 2024 to university and elsewhere.

They have finally purchased the new squad tent to use at training sessions and competitions.

The activities at a recent training session held at Nettlebed were all prepared by Tommy Rollins (SN).

The Talent Squad have now provided the regional squad with all material used in the past for online training which will be useful in the future. SK said that they plan to use this material for a pre-JK zoom training session.

1711 Website & Publicity

IM opened this section by saying that the SCOA website is now looking very out of date and tired and in dire need of upgrading. Many thanks to both DC and Jerry Newcombe for all their hard work in recent months but we do need to upgrade it and consider changes to a new platform with new hosting. A few names were mentioned, Paul Frost who is an orienteer and has built new websites for both SEOA and NWOA. Someone else does the SWOA website. IM said they would probably use Wordpress.

IM said that he was looking for ideas of what is on or should be on the SCOA website and requires this feedback by the end of March **Action: Club Reps to consider what should/should not be on SCOA website – BY THE END OF APRIL [revised from end of March].**

1712 Grants and Awards Policy Proposal

FC & TM had circulated a discussion document around the proposed updating of the SCOA Grants & Awards Policy. FC explained that the last time it had been reviewed was

in 2010 when the funding situation was very different, for example, Sport England was still providing some funding whereas they no longer do.

A large proportion of the criteria would remain unchanged such as any claim by a SCOA committee member attending meetings or conferences as a representative of the committee and the support provided to fund people undertaking a Coaching Course to become a coach for their club. This is covered in **points 1 to 5** in the proposal document and was agreed by the committee.

Point 6 of the proposal was to pay 100% of First Aid Course fees for the SCJS Coaches – SK explained that he was required to attend a 2-day outdoor First Aid course as many of the training sessions were outdoors and many in relatively remote locations. This was discussed and agreed by the committee.

Point 7 – WJHI, SHI, VHI and ‘Interland’ - 50% of the fee paid or the corresponding England Fee (whichever is the lower) was accepted.

Before moving on to the remaining two points on the proposal FC reminded the committee that one of the main purposes of SCOA is to ***‘promote and support the activities of the SCOA Junior Squad’*** and that a junior in the sport of orienteering being anyone under the age of 21.

In relation to the **Points 8 + 9**, FC and TM proposed that SCOA increase the funding for the Juniors to include travel costs – 50% of tour fees + travel expenses.

Point 8 – JROS Tours (e.g. Lagganlia, Stockholm, Gothenburg and others such as the Talent Squad) – these triggered further discussions in relation to the Talent Squad South. ***Talent*** involves athletes aged 15 upwards, ***Development*** is for athletes aged 19 upwards and the ***Performance Squad*** are athletes representing GB at international events.

DC (whose son Duncan is in Talent South) explained that although the annual fee for Talent South is somewhere in the region of £300 - £400 that they had not paid the full fee for 2024 as Duncan had not been able to attend all the training sessions. It was agreed that it was appropriate that 50% the actual cost could be claimed.

Selection for tours is done earlier in the year than the actual tour and once the selections are made this can be notified to the committee however the total cost of a trip is not necessarily known at this time. This does however provide an indication of what claims will be made during the year for the purposes of budgeting.

Point 9 – Juniors representing GB – this is harder to give advanced notice as an athlete only knows they are going when they are notified of their selection.

[Post Meeting Note – Pete Riches asked on this point ‘why only juniors representing GB, why not other nationalities?]

The question of other nationalities was discussed at length at the meeting using the example of an Australian athlete selected to run for Australia IN Australia. Would SCOA fund 50% of the flight and tour costs? It was felt that such requests would be considered by the committee on a case by case scenario, always considering the funds available at the time of the initial notification of a potential claim.

The issue of whether to set a limit on how much each athlete could receive per year was also considered and SK pointed out that if one of the juniors is consistently getting good results at events they could be selected for several different camps or tours in that year. It was decided to examine the claims over the last few years and see how much each athlete had been granted in each year to give an idea of the amounts we were considering. **Action: FC & TM to examine the grants made to juniors in the last few years per individual.**

It was agreed that an applicant (or parent) should declare whether they have received or are likely to receive funding from any other source. Athletes have a moral obligation NOT to make a surplus.

IM made the point that it was vital that any policy should open with the caveat ***'Grants & Awards are discretionary and subject to SCOA funds.'***

1713 AOB

- **BCC or CC**

DR said it was inconvenient to have to contact other committee members for whatever reason via FC (FC echoed those views emphatically), asked the reasons. FC explained that when he was a committee member that Alan Wallace (SN) had made the point that it contravened GDPR and ever since she had BCC'd emails. DR suggested that no one on the committee would object. **Action: FC to email out that emails would in future be CC'd and that anyone who preferred future messages to be BCC to respond.**

- FC was asked for an update on the issues with the Cold Ash parking field after the Concorde Chase on 26th January. FC stated that the farmer was claiming for damage to the field as it needed substantial work to recover the surface soil and would need reseeding. Additionally, one claim had been received for serious damage to one of the competitor's cars. It is all in the hands of the BOF Public Liability insurers. A discussion ensued regarding public liability insurance for orienteering clubs – **Action: Club Reps to go back to clubs to initiate a discussion around whether they have sufficient insurance coverage for events.**

- SK stated that the Junior Squad now has a tent purchased with SCOA funding and asked whether SCOA has an Asset Register? IM said that he understood that Bernie Fowler was the SCOA Equipment Officer. JW said that he has a selection of A4 and A3 map boxes from the JK 2019. It was decided that a SCOA Asset Register would be an appropriate thing to go on the new SCOA website. **Action: Club Reps to check which SCOA equipment they hold and to provide a list of the assets and where they are held (and how to access them).**

1714 Proposed dates of future meetings:

Thursday 19th June 2025 AGM & Committee meeting **Note: changed from 5th June **

Thursday 4th September 2025

Thursday 4th December 2025

Fiona Clough
Secretary SCOA