

Minutes of the SCOA Committee Meeting held after the AGM on Thursday 19th June 2025 (on Zoom)

Present

Ian Moran	SOC	Chair
Richard Sharp	TVOC	Fixtures Secretary
Alan Kersley	BADO	Club Rep
Debbie Robinson	SN	Club Rep
David Currie	SOC	Club Rep
Simon Kippin	TVOC	SCJS Coach
Liz Yeadon	SARUM	Club Rep
Chris Poole	TVOC	Coaching Officer
Jon Wheatcroft	TVOC	Vice-Chair
Pete Riches	TVOC	Club Rep

1715 Apologies for absence

Simon Moore	BKO	Club Rep
Trish Monks	BKO	Treasurer
Fiona Clough	BKO	Secretary (running very late but got there in the end).

1716 Review of minutes of last meeting held on 6th March 2025

The minutes were reviewed by those present and agreed to be a true record of the proceedings.

1717 Matters arising

Paragraph 1699 – **Orienteering acronyms & orienteering terminology – TM - ongoing**

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

Paragraph 1704 – FC to contact Rob Mullens regarding SCOA League results on website – complete.

Paragraph 1707 – CSC Heat 2026 – DC to see whether SOC can host & DR to see whether SN can take it on Horsell Common – discussed in Fixtures.

Paragraph 1711 – Club Reps to feedback to IM what they consider needs to be held on the SCOA website – complete.

Paragraph 1712 – Grants and Awards Policy - **Action: FC & TM to examine the grants made to juniors in the last few years per individual – awaits feedback from FC and TM at the next meeting.**

Paragraph 1713 – BCC or CC Action: FC to email out to committee members asking for opt outs from CC'd emails – complete (no one objected to CC).

Paragraph 1713 – **Club Reps to go back to their committees to initiate a discussion around whether they have sufficient public liability insurance – ongoing.**

Paragraph 1713 – SCOA Asset Register **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) – ongoing.**

1718 Chair's report

Nothing further to add as report covered in AGM.

1719 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer had sent her apologies and had circulated a report detailing the transactions and current balances of the SCOA accounts. There were no questions.

1720 Secretary's report

The secretary was running late but had nothing to report.

1721 Fixtures

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

There are no major events on SCOA for the rest of this year. The next being the Southern Championships being held at the Concorde Chase 2026 then nothing else for 2027 or 2028.

SCOA League – there were 8 events last season, including 2 outside the region. RS expressed concern about next season as there are currently only 3 events registered inside SCOA and nothing obvious in either SEOA or SWOA. He asked whether Clubs were planning any additional events that are just not visible? There is currently nothing shown after January 2026. There are various other events being considered but nothing confirmed yet. BADO has not forest events scheduled. TVOC has an event that may move to a level C and could potentially be another SCOA league event making a total of 4 events.

There has been no offer to host the 2026 CSC Heat.

Some events registered on the BOF website are missing officials.

1722 Technical Officer's report

No current update.

1723 Coaching

CP had nothing further to add as everything had been considered at the AGM.

1724 SCJS

SK stated that there are several selection camps this year and the JIRCs are in the Lake District, so SCJS are planning to share various costs with SEJS. The costs will be similar using 4 or 5 cars between the two squads.

1725 Website & Publicity

IM said that we need to identify someone to manage the website in due course, but in the meantime. Jerry Newcombe is happy to review options and make some recommendations for improvement. **Action: Club Reps to go back to committees to obtain suggestions for potential functionality.**

1726 JK 2029

IM asked for suggestions for potential areas and noted that we are short of decent areas where we can get permission at Easter. AK mentioned Chawton Park Woods as a possible venue for a Middle-Distance race with good parking (it is used for Brutal Runs) but Forestry England are protecting dormice in the area, and their concerns would need to be addressed before there was any chance of being granted permission. Reading University was mentioned as being one of the better areas to hold the sprint. Any alternatives? **Action: Clubs to discuss and report back.**

1727 AOB

JW attended the AGM of the EOC on behalf of SCOA (virtually) and provided an update to the committee.

1. The regional contributions are increasing from 85p to £1 per member unit per year so the SCOA contribution will be £662. A discussion followed on the reason for the increase and the purpose of the EOC (funding the England International Team). It was pointed out that although regional membership may have dropped since Covid that team numbers remain the same and travel costs have increased resulting in the increase of contributions.
2. There is a vacancy for a 'Senior Selector' for the Senior Home Internationals. Candidates need not actually be senior, but someone interested in performance. Any possible candidates to contact Martin Ward SYO.
3. SCOAs next EOC commitment is to host the VHI in 2031.

IM thanks JW for attending on behalf of SCOA.

LY asked about the SCOA Champs 2026, specifically, which event will host it and do we want to continue to award medals? If so, LY asked for further funding to be approved so she can purchase some more - £100 should do it. It was agreed that we should continue to award medals. SCOA Champs needs to be a Level B event with age classes. The committee then reviewed the possible events. The Concorde Chase 2026 is already hosting the Southern Champs (**post meeting note – it was intended to hold this event at Hawley, but permission has been refused, and it has been moved to Star Posts**). The Chiltern Challenge this year is not a level B event. The SN Trophy might be suitable, but it depends on where it is going to be held. **Action: DR to check venue of SN Trophy 2026 and FC to mention it to Simon Moore (organiser of CC 2026) to obtain his views.**

One final point made by LY was that we need a SCOA league event after the SCOA Champs to hand out the medals (this having been established as the best way to distribute them).

PR asked why does SCOA not host a Sprint Championships? SEOA recently held a SE Sprint Champs, the format is popular, and everyone had a great time. PR said that TVOC might be able to host such an event. RS said that the committee had discussed it

perhaps 12 years ago, but sprint racing is getting more popular. A discussion followed around possible venues (Whiteknights and Oxford Harwell mentioned). The conclusion reached was that if a club can find a venue and officials then to go for it but it was agreed that this should not be a pressure point to find a host, clubs can volunteer if they want to host Sprint Champs.

RS wanted to express his thanks to Paul Thwaite and Jerry Newcombe for all their work to put together the SCOA League results. There is a 40% reduction in participation. IM asked for Club Reps to promote the SCOA League in their clubs.

1728 Proposed dates of future meetings:

Thursday 4th September 2025

Thursday 4th December 2025

Fiona Clough
Secretary SCOA
8th July 2025