

Minutes of the SCOA Committee Meeting held at 1930 on Thursday 4th September 2025 (on Zoom)

Present

Ian Moran	SOC	Chair
Richard Sharp	TVOC	Fixtures Secretary
David Currie	SOC	Club Rep
Trish Monks	BKO	Treasurer
Chris Poole	TVOC	Coaching Officer
Jon Wheatcroft	TVOC	Vice-Chair
Pete Riches	TVOC	Club Rep
Fiona Clough	BKO	Secretary
Debbie Robinson	SN	Club Rep
Alan Kersley	BADO	Club Rep

1729 Apologies for absence

Simon Moore	BKO	Club Rep
Liz Yeadon	SARUM	Club Rep
Simon Kippin	TVOC	SCJS

1730 Review of AGM minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of the AGM for accuracy and agreed they were a good record (to be approved at 2026 AGM).

1731 Review of minutes of last committee meeting on 19th June 2025

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed by those present at the meeting and agreed to be a true record. Proposed by JW and seconded by CP.

1732 Matters arising

Paragraph 1699 – **Orienteering acronyms & orienteering terminology** – this point had been brought up by TM as requiring clarification. It was decided that this would be best done as a separate section on the SCOA website and moved away from the matters arising. Such a page would grow organically as and when different phrases and acronyms emerged – complete.

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

Paragraph 1712 – Grants & Awards Policy – IM recently circulated an email suggesting a division of grant awards between SCOA, Clubs and the athletes themselves and this created lengthy discussions. The main point being that SCOA can specify what SCOA contributes but cannot designate what clubs pay. On every occasion for both clubs and SCOA any grant is discretionary and not an entitlement. Some clubs had a cap of the maximum any athlete can claim each year. TM & FC to review the recent grants to establish how much SCOA granted to per individual to recommend a cap on any possible grant (there should always be an expectation that successful applicants make a positive contribution back to the sport) – 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).** This is another organic item for the website, but the information needs to be gathered – ongoing.

Paragraph 1725 – Website, recommendations for improvements **Action: Club Reps to go back to committees to obtain suggestions for potential functionality** – Suggestions have been received – complete.

Paragraph 1726 – JK 2029 – to be discussed as agenda item.

Paragraph 1727 – SCOA Champs 2026 – to be held at Concorde Chase/Southern champs at the end of January. **Action: FC to email SM to inform him** – complete.

1733 Chair's Report

IM had circulated a report to the committee prior to the meeting but mentioned the following items.

Christine Currie (SOC) has kindly offered to take over as the SCOA representative for The Orienteering Foundation from Alun Jones (TVOC). Many thanks to Alun for representing SCOA over the years.

IM stated that the key things he wants to discuss relate to the SCOA League. Jerry Newcombe and Paul Thwaites have suggested the following slight changes to the rules:

1. Over 16's cannot run the White\Yellow\Orange courses.
2. Number of events that must be done in a season, currently 3 events but it is suggested that we reduce that number to 2 events or 50% of the events.

This was discussed at length, and both points were agreed with on point 2, the requirement at 50% of the events rounded up to the nearest even number.

1734 Treasurer's Report

TM had circulated a report covering the period between June and the end of August to the committee members and said that not much has happened since the AGM/last meeting. Following the discussions that agreed to sponsor the Oxford Uni students to attend the Euro Uni Champs three payments have been paid out to them – 50% including their airfares. PR said that Oxford University orienteering club have been very proactive on promoting the sport.

1735 Secretary's Report

FC said that she has submitted the Association Return to British Orienteering but had had some discussions regarding the role of Association Welfare Officer and what training must have been completed as the return had a question about that. The conclusion was to remove JW from that role.

A short discussion followed regarding an email FC had received saying SCOA had been nominated for an award. CP confirmed that it was a scam and not to respond to it.

1736 Fixtures Secretary's Report

RS had circulated a report to the committee prior to the meeting but mentioned the following additional items.

Apparently SWOA who are scheduled to host the JK 2028 but have said they are unable to do it. We have not been asked to bring our year forward yet. It was agreed that SCOA would not be keen to host in 2028. DR said that SEOA are hosting 2027 so it would have been SE 2027, SW 2028 and the SC 2029.

RS then informed the meeting that for the 2025/26 season we now have 6 events, maybe 1 more. The first event is in the middle of September therefore the prize giving will be held at the SN SCOL event in December. PR said TVOC might have an additional one. RS said that he needs to sort out the correct SCOL numbers to make compiling the results easier.

RS said the only other point is that the forthcoming Wantage Urban (TVOC) has no organiser shown. PR said that Tom Dobra is doing that, and he will ensure the BOF website is updated.

1737 Technical Officer's Report

KS no longer attends the SCOA meetings but had circulated a report prior to the meeting.

PR asked whether KS would be running any Controller Courses as there are a couple of TVOC members interested. IM undertook to email KS. **Action: IM to email KS to see whether she would be running any Controller Courses.**

1738 Coaching Officer

CP said that there are several people from SOC interested in undertaking training to become coaches. He can deliver the training but needs 4-6 people to make it worthwhile. A lot of the sessions are now online. FC said she believed Carol Lovegrove (SN) will be doing a coaching course soon and she will put CP in touch with Carol.

IM stated that The Orienteering Foundation is sponsoring two coaching weekends: one in the Lake District and the second in South Wales. IM asked whether this would be of interest for our region? CP said there is a lot of organisation involved in delivering a weekend like that and it does need to be associated with an event to encourage people to participate. IM asked whether there was an appetite to do weekends like that?

Action: Club Reps to discuss with their committees whether there is an appetite to take part in and support the delivery of a coaching weekend as discussed.

DC said that whenever SOC run training sessions, they invite WIM and WSX club members too, but no one has ever shown up.

1739 SCJS

SK had sent his apologies as he was unable to attend but had circulated a report to the committee prior to the meeting.

1740 Website & Publicity

IM said that Jerry Newcombe has put a lot of work into getting the SCOA league back up to date and reviewing the rules (as discussed in 1733) and will start work on the SCOA website shortly. He would still appreciate any suggestions around the website.

1742 JK2029

Sprint

The following Sprint areas were discussed; Harwell, probably not possible, Oxford Colleges would be ideal however there is a limit on numbers of competitors and OUOC would have to be non-competitive as the live and train within the area. Whiteknights (Reading) would be good with public transport links (on Bank Holiday?), park and ride and some parking on campus - **Action: FC to raise Whiteknights as a possible Sprint area with BKO Committee.**

Long

Neville Baker (TVOC) is currently looking into a possible new area that would be suitable although it is earmarked for a Chiltern Challenge. PR said it would be raised at the TVOC meeting next Monday and he would report back from that.

DR said that the SN Trophy 2025 is being held on Windmill & Frith Hills. Mytchett together with Windmill & Frith would be good for a Long race as not SSSI. The question would be whether there would be sufficient parking for an event of that size.

Middle

AK has identified an area in BADO that would be good for a Middle-Distance race but needs to check with the forester - **Action: AK to check with forester for possible Middle area.**

JW asked whether the idea of holding the JK out of region (e.g. Wales?) has been dismissed. IM said that it has not been dismissed yet - **Action: RS to raise this suggestion at the next Fixtures Meeting.**

IM said that none of these possible areas have been confirmed and that Clubs should continue to consider other possible areas - **Action: All Club Reps to discuss with their committee possible areas for the next SCOA meeting.**

1743 Proposed dates of future meetings:

Thursday 4th December 2025

Thursday 5th March 2026

Thursday 4th June 2026 AGM and Committee Meeting

Thursday 10th September 2026

Fiona Clough
Secretary SCOA
18th September 2025