

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

Present

Ian Moran	SOC	Chair
Jon Wheatcroft	TVOC	Vice-Chair
Simon Kippin	TVOC	SCJS
Debbie Robinson	SN	Club Rep
David Currie	SOC	Club Rep
Liz Yeadon	SARUM	Club Rep
Fiona Clough	BKO	Secretary/Club Rep

1744 Apologies for absence

Trish Monks	BKO	Treasurer
Simon Moore	BKO	Club Rep
Richard Sharp	TVOC	Fixtures Secretary
Pete Riches	TVOC	Club Rep

1745 Review of minutes of last committee meeting on 4th September 2025

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed by those present at the meeting and initially agreed to be a true record however there followed a lengthy discussion regarding the SCOA Championships 2025.

Post meeting note: The September minutes stated in error that the SCOA Champs were to be held at the SN Trophy event at the end of November but that had not happened. The 2025 SCOA Champs had in fact taken place at the Concorde Chase in January 2025 and so it was removed from the minutes of the September meeting. It was possibly confusion between Champs and League Prize giving.

1746 Matters arising

Paragraph 1699 – IM to put together info for clubs to send out to schools – IM has completed this action and will circulate the information by email for comment. Complete.

Paragraph 1712 – Grants & Awards policy – **Action: TM & FC to look at previous grants made over the last few years** - ongoing.

Paragraph 1713 – SCOA Asset register – no assets had been identified at this time, and clubs already have an informal ‘loan’ agreement between them to loan general equipment for larger events if needed – closed.

Paragraph 1727 – SCOA Champs 2026 to be held at Concorde Chase – **Action: FC to inform organiser** – complete.

Paragraph 1737 – Controllers courses – **Action: IM to email KS** – complete.

Paragraph 1738 – Coaching Weekend for adults sponsored by The Orienteering Foundation – this was discussed at length regarding how it would be delivered, who would deliver it and possible locations. DC said that the format at the Forest of Dean was Saturday morning - coaching, Saturday pm - night event, Sunday – event. It was agreed that it would work best on a weekend where there was a good event on the Sunday. Questions asked were – how many coaches were required? Who was the target audience? What is the aim? It was felt that rather

than expecting regional coaches to have responsibility for organising, planning and setting this up that paid coaches could be brought in. **Action: IM to obtain a blueprint of previous TOF sponsored coaching sessions for review prior to further discussion.**

Paragraph 1742 – JK2029 – all matters to be covered in the JK2029 section of the meeting.

1747 Chair's report

The Chair had circulated a report prior to the meeting, and he made several points in addition.

The prize giving for the 2024 to 2025 SCOA League Season is to be held at the BKO event at Black Park. This was the first event of the 2025 to 2026 season (SCOL1). Please publicise within clubs to remind the prize winners to attend.

IM had circulated the SCOA Bulletin to committee members and asked that it be distributed/posted to club websites.

1748 Treasurer's report

TM had sent her apologies for absence but had circulated a report prior to the meeting. IM said that SCOA is still in a strong position financially. There were no further comments.

1749 Secretary's report

Nothing to report

1750 Fixtures report

RS had sent his apologies but had circulated a report to committee members prior to the meeting. IM stated that the two matters the members need to discuss with their committees are that we need an Yvette Baker Trophy round 2027. There has not been one in SCOA for several years and it adds very little effort to a standards SCOL event. Secondly, we need a SCOA host for the 2027 CSC Heat on 07/02/2027. **Action: Club Reps to discuss at their committees.**

1751 Technical Officer's report

KS no longer attended the meetings but had circulated a report prior to the meeting. KS asked that the committee consider paying reasonable expenses to SCOA affiliated individuals attending the Controllers Course (KS had run one on 08/11/25) as Controllers act for other clubs, not their own. This was agreed.

KS also recommended the appointment of three Grade 3 Controllers; all meet the necessary requirements and have undertaken the Event Safety Workshop. They were discussed and approved. **Action: IM to notify Ks of both decisions (agreement to expenses being paid and to the appointment of the Controllers).**

1752 Coaching/Development

IM informed the committee that CP had resigned as SCOA Coaching Officer with immediate effect and that the role of Coaching/Development is again vacant.

LY reluctantly agreed to cover the role partially. She agreed to explain the training processes to any prospective candidates. As a result of a recent review undertaken on behalf of British Orienteering there have been changes and improvements to the current coach education pathway. DC remarked that the process appear to keep changing so no one knows what is required. LY suggested the prospective coaches speak to Hilary Palmer who has put the new BOF training package together.

LY explained that she is happy to help people access the training but that getting a quarterly update on training activities from member clubs had become too arduous. IM asked whether the SCOA Coaching rep needed to be a coach and it was agreed that although not absolutely necessary that it was helpful.

LY agreed to keep a 'watching brief' on the regional coaches but not provide the quarterly updates.

1753 SCJS

SK had provided a report prior to the meeting and had also circulated a report from Izzy on the squad's attendance at JIRC's 2025.

SK mentioned briefly the activities planned for the next few months.

SK then talked about the lengthy session at the JROS Annual Meeting with the new British Orienteering Safeguarding lead, Jeanette Downing. He circulated a link showing the expected **minimum** levels of training expected from coaches/volunteers.

<https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/doc/policies-and-guidance/safeguarding/safeguarding-minimum-training-standards-2025>

The implications of the requirements are enormous not only for Junior Squads (who could not function without the help and support of parents and volunteer coaches) but also Clubs delivering events and Associations. It was agreed at the JROS meeting that the Junior Squad coaches would send various scenarios to British Orienteering for discussion with a view to working out the route forwards.

IM asked how many juniors are currently on the SCJS and SK explained that at this time of year the squad is in flux as some of the members are off to university and changing age groups (M/W20 etc.), but somewhere between 20-30 members.

1754 Website & Publicity

IM said that Jerry Newcombe is working on the website and the content has already improved. Work is ongoing.

1755 JK2029

Sprint – As requested, FC had raised Whiteknights as a possible sprint area with the BKO Committee, and the response had been that it would not be impossible but would be tricky. The permissions system had changed recently in that EVERY department had to be asked and give approval making getting permission very arduous.

KS had suggested Birch Hill as a possible venue. IM will further discuss this with her.

Middle – BADO had suggested they might have a possible area to hold a middle-distance event, but no update provided. **Action: FC to check with AK regarding Middle Distance area.**

Long – IM suggested Mytchett/Windmill/Frith Hills – SN areas. DR said that it was possible but would require more than one road crossing. Issues are obtaining permission/licences from Landmark and that it is now very expensive, costing £8 per person, including juniors plus fees for traders and additional licences (and fees) for parking. We need to consider whether we want to risk getting the permission confirmation – or not – very late. DR said they only got the licence for the SN Trophy 2 months before the event and final permission 8 days before. Discussion followed regarding permissions meetings held for the Salisbury Plain area, booking protocols and de-conflicting with army units booked on to an area.

IM mentioned Cold Ash, but this would require parking away from the area and bussing and associated cost. A discussion followed around possible parking locations on the Cold Ash side of Newbury (DR works in Newbury). No conclusion reached. FC made the point that Eling Estates who own most of the woodland encourage orienteering on the area all year around. Still a possibility.

Relay – possibly a TVOC area?

Action: Club Reps to continue to discuss with their committee's possible area for all JK2029 events.

1756 AOB

FC asked that the date of the AGM and committee meeting in 2026 be changed to Wednesday 3rd June as she would be away on 4th. All present agreed.

DR said that as she would be taking early retirement in January 2026, she would no longer be able access her work Zoom account and that future meetings would need to use a different platform.

IM stated that the SCOA Championships are being held at the Concorde Chase/Southern Champs on 25th January 2026 and the prize giving would be at the SOC event at Bramshaw on 8th February 2026.

1757 Proposed dates of future meetings:

Thursday 5th March 2026

Wednesday 3rd June 2026 – AGM & Committee meeting – NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Thursday 10th September 2026

Fiona Clough

Secretary SCOA

9th December 2026