

Welcome to Squad Liaison

Before I tell you the main reason for writing this article, let me give those who don't know a brief description of how the above job started and how it has evolved over the last eight years.

In the autumn of 2000, the members of the BOK Committee decided to look seriously at the possibility of allocating the Klub's members to helper squads, each with a leader or coordinator, to prevent an organiser having to make as many as 50 phone calls in order to find enough helpers for his or her forthcoming event, which had always been the practice up until then. As a result a sub-committee, of David Urch, Peter Foster, Ashley Cooper and me, was formed to pursue this possibility.

We decided that squads centred around Vehicle Management, Registration, Start, Finish and String Course would be a good start and suggestions were made of who might co-ordinate each squad. Once enough interested members had been contacted, a meeting was held to explain the new squad system and to get some feedback. All who attended seemed very positive, so we decided to go ahead.

In early 2001 BOK's new squad system was launched. I organised all club members into squads and sent a letter to each member to explain what was happening and ask them if they were happy with the squad to which they had been allocated. I also gave them contact details of their new squad coordinator. This information is recorded in a copy of the current membership database, as well as the number of times each member has been able to help. Whenever a new adult member joins BOK, they are allocated to a squad and sent a letter to welcome them to BOK's squad system. (Young People under 18 are not allocated to a squad but can offer to help if they volunteer to do so.) I always say to the new adult member that we don't expect them to help at the beginning, but that being in a squad is a good way to get to know other members. We always encourage members to change from one squad to another once they have become an established member, to give them a different perspective on how an event is run, as well as the chance to get to know a new group of people. This task of maintaining a squad database based on the membership database, allocating members to a squad and keeping a record of the number of times every member helps, is called Squad Liaison.

And now the main reason for writing this article. After eight years and several changes to the system, including adding two new squads, namely 'First Aid' and 'Ask Me', I have decided it is time for someone else to bring a new perspective to this task and I ask you to welcome Nick Ajderian, who has very kindly agreed to take over from me. I will be helping Nick when necessary, but the database will cause him no problems, as he is considerably more computer literate than I am anyway. Good luck, Nick!

If anyone has any questions I would be pleased to try to answer them.

Tricia Walker [[email](#)]