

## Items of interest from Committee Meeting held on September 18<sup>th</sup> 2008.

### 1. Matters Arising.

- **Squad Liaison.** The Secretary reported a message from Tricia Walker: 'Note that the post of Squad Liaison has been misquoted several times in previous minutes as Squad Coordinator. Could we in future refer to the overall supervisor of squads as Squad Liaison, so as not to confuse this with the names of the leaders of each squad, who are called Squad Coordinators?' Duly noted.
- **Review of Clubmark status.** The club should be producing more coaches. The lack of a coach, with Chris Farr moved away, has caused the failure of Brian Gardner's initiative for after-school activities at Warmley Forest Park. The committee agreed that this is a serious problem.
- **Date for AGM.** The Chairman voiced his belief that the high turn-out showed that Wednesday is in fact a good alternative to Friday. The Secretary noted that a number of last minute phone-calls had had a significant effect on numbers. The Chairman recorded the committee's thanks to Tricia Walker for making this effort and organising a very pleasant evening.
- **Suggestion for an Avon Development Officer.** Clare Fletcher asked whether, in view of all the development initiatives in schools orienteering, ASO numbers were increasing. The gulf between orienteering in school-time and on Sundays at ASO events was once more discussed, with the importance of teacher and parent interest again emphasised. Are we targeting the right teachers – might Geography be more relevant than Games? Should we start a Teachers' League?

### 2. Reports

- a) **Captains.** Helen Kelsey reported that a small team of BOK juniors had competed against a SOC team at the Yvette Baker Trophy preliminary round at Turf Hill and Millersford last Sunday, and lost by 894 points to 792. Team members had been asked to commit to attendance at the Final at Sandringham, in Norfolk, before competing, and this will certainly have reduced the take-up. The Chairman expressed the committee's thanks to Jackie Hallett for organising the club's team.
- b) **Treasurer.** Mark Dyer said that he had very little to add to his report at the AGM. Jackie Hallett has now ordered a new batch of BOK tops at a cost of about £2000, but she has a waiting list, so money will start to come back in soon after their arrival. Martin Helfer suggested that a BOK top should be on display at Registration at BOK events, to raise awareness. The Secretary will ask Jackie to post a blog on the BOK website when the tops arrive. Payment of our charges for equipment hire to Croeso will also improve the bank-balance shortly.
- c) **Secretary.**
  - Celia Watkinson reports that Wesport now have funding for an NGB Sports Project Officer, who will interact with Celia in the area of orienteering.
  - An extract from BOF Rules Group minutes, forwarded to clubs by John Shucksmith in July, appears to indicate that the outcome of the Event Structures Review has been effectively what Mark Dyer had suggested in his letter – Regional events retained and C4s and C5s combined into one group.
  - Arthur Vince informs us that SWOA now have a toilet hire contract with Brandon Hire which should save us money. This information will be added to the Organisers Manual and to all Land Registry forms.
  - BOF now routinely ask for details of next year's club fees in early September (by 12.9.08 this year) emphasising the desirability of having future AGMs at a similar date to this year rather than later, as in other years.
  - 25 students from a Swedish 'orienteering high school', age range 16 to 19 yrs, wish to run a training camp in England next March/April and ask us if we can assist in finding accommodation and suitable mapped areas. Although local Youth Hostels might provide suitable accommodation it is not clear how useful the students would find local terrain and how they might organise transport.
  - Our RDO informs us that Simon Beck, currently unable to run competitively, is looking for mapping work. Dudley suggests there is nothing suitable at present but we should keep his details on file.
- d) **Web-site.** Steve Horton had sent a report on web-site developments, circulated before the meeting. Although website hits were lower, as usual, during the summer, all months were up by a significant factor year-on-year. The number of subscribers to the BOK Bulletin had increased again. Some photos have been placed on an external site (Picasa Web) to save disk space.

### **3. Fixtures**

#### **a) Held.**

06.09.08 CATI Ashton Court; Organiser Katy Dyer, helped by Alan Kempton. This event had been moved from The Downs because of a clash with the Downs Football League but was successful, despite poor weather, following radio publicity from Katy and Anne Donnell. 24 adults and 26 juniors had taken part and Sally Thomas reported good feedback from parents. One couple had requested String Course timing to seconds rather than minutes.

13.09.08 CATI and inauguration of Permanent Course at Three Brooks; Organiser Dudley Budden. Good publicity in the Bradley Stoke area had resulted in a large turn-out for this event, with 180 participants on the day. Facilities are good, with good parking and POC maps available in the library of the sports hall next door. Martin Helfer suggested that we should have BOK publicity in this library. The posts on this permanent course are of an original design, with brass plates on top which reveal the sequential links of a food chain when rubbed in the correct order.

The committee would like to thank the Officials and helpers for their hard work on these very successful events.

#### **b) Future, including BOK's role at JK2010.**

27.09.08 CATI, Mundy Playing Fields, Thornbury; Organiser Grace Davies, helped by David and Anne Palmer.

05.10.08 District/ASO and Klub Champs, Leigh Woods; Organiser Jo Foster, Planners Jenny and Mark Selley, Controller Robin Walker. Neil Connelly organiser for Klub Champs. Unfortunately this event clashes with the Two Moors Challenge.

11.10.08 First Saturday League event, Worlebury Woods; Organiser and Planner Trevor Crowe. Four Saturday events are currently scheduled, with Ashley Cooper as overall coordinator, SI punching used.

26.10.08 Bristol Long-O Ashton Court etc; Organiser Katy Dyer, Planners Howard and Sally Thomas, Controller Ian Cawley.

23.11.08 Galoppen/ASO Headless Hill; Organiser Katy Dyer, Planners Alice Bedwell and Mark Saunders, Controller Pat Barclay. Area re-christened to avoid confusion with NGOC High Meadow map.

02.12.08 Street-O Clifton; Organiser and Planner Jonathan Hurford.

13.12.08 Saturday League 2 Leigh Woods; Organiser and Planner Tim Britton.

20.12.08 WNL Headless Hill; Organiser and Planner Andy Creber.

21.12.08 Christmas Novelty event Three Brooks; Organiser not found as yet.

2009 programme. The Saturday league dates were coordinated in advance with Roger Coe of NGOC to avoid clashes, but this had been missed by NGOC and some clashes now occur. Next year's dates will be cleared with NGOC and MADDO to avoid adjacent clashes. Sally Thomas pointed out that the March 7<sup>th</sup> WNL event will now not be at Lyncombe because the use fees are too high. On the whole there seemed to have been no large increases in access fees. Use of Headless Hill rather than Brierley for the 29.11.09 Galoppen was suggested, but it seems inappropriate to run Galoppens on the same area in consecutive years.

We have been asked to run the Starts at JK2010. The committee was happy to accept this task. Dave Urch has agreed to be Team Leader.

### **4. Other Matters**

- a) Publicity, including Colour Leaflets.** Jonathan Hurford had emailed the committee as follows:-  
'I'm arranging to meet Sian Davies from Bristol City Council. My proposal is that next summer's informals could be promoted by the council, coordinated with their fixtures, and could also use their publicity. I'm proposing six events in 6 city parks badged as "Six in the City". I was even thinking of a T shirt "I've enjoyed Six in the City with BOK"! Proposed venues would be Ashton Court, Blaise, Purdown, Leigh Woods, Eastville and maybe Victoria Park. Can anyone think of any problems?'  
Christophe Mutricy is happy to coordinate next year's informal series, having done so successfully this year. Dudley Budden had responded to Jonathan's email with critical comments on the state of the Eastville and Victoria Park maps, and on the size of Victoria Park. Robin Walker suggested that the Downs should be included. Martin Helfer pointed out that an advantage of Eastville would be that it would access a different catchment area to most of our events. The committee felt that the idea was a

very good one, but the list of sites needed some discussion and rationalisation.

In discussing the most recent draft of the colour leaflet it was agreed that the graphics were very good, but opinions were divided on the text, with some members feeling that there were too many words – though it was pointed out that it is meant to be an information leaflet for the club, not a striking advertisement. Robin Walker was concerned that discussion of the leaflet was dragging on too long. The text will be reviewed and a print run initiated soon.

- b) **Coaching.** Helen reported that some of the club's juniors had taken part in a SWJS coaching session on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Jackie Hallett was pleased that some were now involved with squad activities. She is understood to be planning for a coaching session on October 18<sup>th</sup>, the day before the CS Cup final, with a probable further session in the New Year. There had been provisional plans for coaching on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, before the Galoppen, but this was now understood to clash with activities at Wavering Down. The committee were very supportive of the Wavering Down project, ably coordinated by Katy Dyer, and were impressed by the contributions of junior BOK members – just as Mark Blackstone had been by their efficiency in producing the current special issue 'Junior BOK News'.
- c) **Mapping.** Dudley Budden has indicated that Trevor Crowe would be willing to become our Mapping Officer. He had helped Dudley with the Walcombe map. Because the committee was unsure of exactly what the job of Mapping Officer entailed, an attempt will be made to produce a job description before Trevor is approached. In the course of discussion Christophe volunteered to give a Condes course if this was needed. Dudley had also circulated a mapping report. The committee was not clear on whether he advocates discarding both Providence and Ashton Plantation or just Providence. Greyfield Woods was also said to require vetting for future use. A long discussion of mapping finances, centring on what the club can afford each year now, whether we have under-invested in the past and how the mapping costs should appear in event budgets, finally focussed on David Gray's point, made at the AGM, that we should perhaps be seeking more grant income. Christophe pointed out that all French O-maps have the logos of the local councils, regions etc on them and are presumably sponsored.
- d) **Safety Review.** Katy Dyer has produced a document entitled 'A Review of Some Aspects of Safety in Orienteering'. This has been chosen as one of the topics for the SWOA Technical Conference on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately Katy has a prior engagement on that day, but Mark has agreed to present the paper, illustrating some of its points with incidents from his experience as a Controller. The main thrust of the argument in the paper is that the BOF rules and guidelines are not sufficiently explicit on where the responsibility for various safety aspects of an event lies – which of the officials is responsible for what. For instance, Mark made a convincing argument for the Controller as the only possible person to take responsibility for safety issues directly related to hazards on the courses planned. Mark asked the committee to agree to the Review going outside the club as a discussion document. The committee were very happy to do this and thanked Katy for producing such a useful paper. One of Katy's points concerns the review of an event's Risk Assessment form by the Controller. This is implied by the rules and by the form itself, but not clearly stated. The committee felt that our Controllers should be asked to make this review part of their duties in future.
- e) **Suggested purchase of new stand-alone printer.** The new Saturday League will be run on a cut-down SI system for which a fast stand-alone printer and associated devices will be essential. Ashley Cooper has produced an estimate of £597.01 for this equipment. After a long discussion it was agreed that Ashley should be given the go-ahead to make this purchase, provided that our invoice to Croeso for equipment hire can be submitted at the same time.
- 5. **Any Other Business.** The Chairman enquired whether Nick Ajderian has now completed his replacement of Tricia Walker as Squad Liaison. Robin Walker confirmed that this was the case. Phil thanked Tricia for her long-standing contributions in running the squad system. He also congratulated Mark Dyer and Robin Walker on the submission to BOF, and circulation, of the BOK letter on the effects of the 2009 levy on our event finances.
- 6. **Dates of Later Meetings.** The date of the next meeting was agreed as November 13<sup>th</sup>.