

Items of interest from Committee Meeting held on July 1st 2009.

1. The Chairman welcomed Jim Hayward to the meeting as spokesman for the new Talent Squad and Increasing Participation initiatives.
2. **Matters Arising.**
 - **Colour Leaflets.** Final draft agreed and printing permission given.
 - **Date and Venue for AGM.** Confirmed as September 23rd at Ring o' Bells in Nailsea.
 - **Possible Use of SGlos Leisure Centres.** Considered, but Redmaids School Hall preferred for Talent Squad/ Increasing Participation activities.
3. **Reports**
 - a) **Captains.** Helen Kelsey reported on three recent club activities. Three teams had taken part in the Harvester Relays with a good deal of success, the A team coming fourth on the A course and the Junior team third on their course. A third team had successfully completed the B course. The Junior situation was particularly promising for the future, with 7 members competing for the 5 places available, and several new recruits to (over)night orienteering. Management of the event (by a group of BOK members) had gone very well, with some helpers working very long hours. The committee wished to convey their congratulations to the team of people responsible for running such a successful and high-profile event so distant from Bristol. On the weekend of June 27th/ 28th the Cotswold Way Relay had coincided with the Klub weekend, in which many BOK members had joined Swansea Bay O Club in their activities on the Gower peninsula. On the Cotswold Way the BOK team had come 44th from 68 (or 16th from 29 mixed teams), a very good result. Peter Foster had been particularly pleased to complete leg 7, which means that he has now run all of the available legs in the race. The SBOC weekend had been greatly enjoyed by those who had taken part and the committee thanked the Captains for organising our inclusion in the activities and also SBOC for making us so welcome. Finally Helen raised the matter of club entries to the final of the Compass Sport Cup, to take place in Fineshade Woods in Northamptonshire, on October 18th. For various reasons (Level 1 event with offset-litho maps, high access charges) the organising club is charging £11.50 for Senior and £5.50 for Junior entries, which seems rather high for such an event. After some discussion it was agreed that the club would subsidise entries by £3 for Seniors and £2 for Juniors. The committee was very much in favour of the use of a coach for transport, if this was economically sensible.
 - b) **Treasurer.** Mark Dyer reported that all recent local events had been financially successful with a final profit of £250-300 at Stock Hill, approximately £200 at Greyfield and even a small profit of £95 for the Saturday Sprint event at Warmley Forest Park. Following an enquiry about the levy situation for ASO events Mark reported that he has returned levies for these events on the assumption that the ASO part is 'Juniors only' (carrying no levy), though no written confirmation of this has been received. Martin Helfer confirmed that he had had no decision from BOF on this issue, and was distinctly displeased, having gone to considerable effort to provide them with reliable predictions for ASO numbers at this season's events. Mark further reported that the Wavering Down project was still running well within budget, with a balance of £1093 but an O festival for 40 children to run on July 21st. The final subsidy for the BOK Annual Dinner had been £112, BOK News had cost £300 and an equipment insurance bill for £500 was imminent. The financial return from the 0007 weekend was still not completely certain, but what was certain was a significant excess of revenue (£23,764) over costs (£15,315 or £16215 depending on how BOF's involvement is finally agreed), with costs much as predicted, but revenue much higher because of high entry numbers and a higher proportion of late entries than expected (the Treasurer cautioned against assuming that this position will recur in future large events). Profit shares to NGOC and the Welsh Junior Squad have been agreed, but BOK's profit on the National event will not be confirmed until the results are known of discussions between Mike Forrest and BOF management – though it will certainly be in excess of £2000. The financial year to July should result in a small addition to our reserves, with the BOKtrot the principal contributor, as is normally the case. The Chairman reiterated that large events like this year's BOKtrot represent a massive investment of effort, but are very good for the club's prestige as well as its financial situation.

c) Secretary.

- A thank-you email had been received from Pat and Neil Cameron for the club's hospitality at the Annual Dinner.
- Nigel Ferrand had enquired whether BOK would be prepared to run a day, or help another club, at Croeso 2012, which is currently being planned. The events are centred on Aberystwyth this time.
- The Rat Race organisers had once again asked for assistance with map provision and help had been given.
- Some adverse comments had been received from a would-be participant at one of this year's Informals, who had arrived too late, after waiting some time at the wrong place. A conciliatory email had produced a very understanding response from the original complainant.
- A request for our assistance in providing large, clear maps for the visually-impaired had been dealt with by Trevor Crowe.

d) SWOA Rep. SWOA committee meeting took place on June 10th. A few points to be noted:-

- Ben Maliphant and Adam Potter chosen for BOF tours. Committee agreed to match SWOA support, as usual.
- Mike Hamilton is the named BOF officer for welfare issues.
- Chris James, of NGOC, has had a minor heart attack, but is making a good recovery. 'Get-well-soon' message sent on the committee's behalf.
- Christine Vince tabled a list of licensed coaches in the SW obtained from BOF. Extract of BOK members circulated to committee pre-meeting.
- SW Club Development Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn at Taunton on Saturday November 28th.
- SWOA AGM will be held after Day 1 of Caddihoe Chase on September 19th.
- QO have decided on SI, with Autodownload software, for their new punching system (it seems that SI can use either Kramer, Autodownload or Michael Napier's software).

e) ASO Rep. Martin Helfer reported that there has been some lack of uniformity in the provision of loose control descriptions and their nature at recent ASO events. He asked that loose, written descriptions be provided routinely for White and Yellow courses, with written and pictorial available for Orange and pictorial only for the more technical courses. It was thought that this was what was already understood, but this request will be included in future in routine notes to Planners. The ASO league season has finished and presentations will be made at the Adams/Avery relays on July 5th, for which 26 teams are entered. It has been a successful season, with numbers marginally up on last year. Mark Dyer suggested that we might hope for other schools to enter ASO following the Wavering Down project but Martin's experience is that new schools only join if they have people within them with an interest in the club. Activities within schools seem to have little effect. Jim Hayward agreed that teachers are keen on the orienteering activities when they are held within school time, but it is a significant extra step to obtain involvement outside school hours. Mention of Wavering Down reminded members of the desirability of having the new colour leaflets available for the July 21st event. Hopefully this will be possible.

4. Fixtures

a) Held.

27.05.09 to 24.06.09; Informals had taken place at Leigh Woods, Ashton Court, Oldbury Court, Victoria Park and Blaise Castle. Christophe Mutricy reported that the series was going well, with participation between 40 and 70, depending on weather and area. There had been some problems with lost controls due to vandalism – one at Leigh Woods, one at Oldbury and four at Victoria Park, though one of these had been found and was on its way back.

07.06.09 ASO League, Greyfield Wood. Organiser Neil Russell Bates, assisted by John Lewis, Planners Clive and Jackie Hallett, Controller Robin Walker. The event had gone very well, with the planners producing excellent courses on a limited area.

13.06.09 Sprint O, Warmley Forest Park. Organiser and Planner Tim Britton. This event had been greatly enjoyed by those who had taken part. Robin Walker pointed out that so-called 'Sprints' on parkland areas were ideal for older orienteers, as the lengths were similar to those they would run at

conventional age-related events. He wondered whether there would have been more entries on a Sunday rather than a Saturday.

20/21.06.09 Harvester Relays, Merthyr Common. Organiser Mark Saunders, Planner Charles Daniel, Controller Mike Forrest. Very successful. See Captains' report.

26-28.06.09 Klub Weekend. Much enjoyed by all. See Captains' report.

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

b) Future.

Next event was the Adams/Avery Relays and there were three more Summer Informals. The Klub Champs on 18.07.09 were proceeding according to plan.

12.09.09 CATI has been transferred to The Downs to avoid a clash with the Kite Festival. Organiser still required.

13.09.09 ASO League, now at Blaise Castle, Organiser Jo Foster (Martin Helfer on the day), Planner Nesbits, Controllers Pat and John Grenfell.

27.09.09 Forest of Dean Long-O. Organiser required, Planners Ashley Cooper/ Howard Thomas.

04.10.09 ASO League, Brierley. Organiser required, Planners Mark and Jenny Selley.

2009/2010 Saturday League. Dave Urch now Coordinator

20.12.09 Christmas Novelty event seems doubtful if new area sought. Committee felt that using Three Brooks again would be perfectly acceptable.

25.04.10 Mike Nelson BOKtrot, Wavering Down suggested as Gaer Hill overgrown in April, maybe OK for Galoppen on 21.11.10. Local farmers will be asked about car parking (event may be popular as new map). Possible bluebell problem in April may be worked around.

01.05.11 Mike Nelson BOKtrot, BOF suggesting this as National event. Much discussion of possible areas for this event led to consideration of re-mapping of Stourhead.

5. Other Matters

a) Publicity, including Colour Leaflets. Print order imminent.

b) Coaching, including Training and Development vacancy. Jim Hayward reported on the Talent Squad and Increasing Participation (TSIP) initiative, which he and Jackie Hallett are intending to link with the club's coaching activities. Coaching excursions are planned for November 28th, before the Headless Hill event (unfortunately coinciding with the SWOA Club Development Conference), and October 17th. Jim pointed out that the TSIP money is linked to BOF's MP3 plans (More Podiums, More People, More Places) with the Talent part related to More Podiums, not necessarily just for Juniors. The plan is to have regular activities on each Thursday evening in Redmaids School hall, probably in term-time at least initially, with beginners invited from 7 to 8pm (Increasing Participation) and experienced orienteers from 8 to 9pm (Talent, with fitness targeted as well as performance). Charges are planned to be £1 per child, £2 per adult, £4 per family, but this is not intended to be a profit-making exercise. It is hoped that we may build up to 40 to 60 attendees, but 20 plus at the first trial evening on September 10th, before the CATI, and for the first proper meeting the following week, would be acceptable. It is essential that BOK members become involved, with either regular or occasional visits, and it is hoped that M21s may attend for circuit training. Jackie will write an article for the next BOK News and a coloured postcard may be produced. Steve Vernon has visited during the planning stage and Sarah Hague will visit later. BOF funding should cover publicity, travel expenses for coaches, mapping costs for the school grounds and possibly help with training courses and coaching courses.

The Chairman conveyed the committee's thanks to Jim and Jackie for all their hard work and welcomed this very exciting development. Jim will continue to be the scheme's link to the committee. The Secretary raised the club's long-existing lack of a Training and Development Officer and the parallel problem of the need for a proper channel for coaching information from our RDO to the club's coaches. Jim felt that there should be a direct link from Celia to all BOK's coaches. He agreed that the club does need a Training and Development Officer, but felt that the TSIP initiative was independent of this need.

c) Mapping, including interpretation of symbols. Trevor Crowe had sent the committee a report on

work done since the last meeting, an updated version of his 'BOK Mapping' spreadsheet and a copy of his 'Condes: A Beginner's Guide', a very useful document which will be made available for download from the club website. Since the May meeting the Wavering Down map has been completed and the Greyfield Wood, Bushey Norwood, Victoria Park, Overscourt Wood and Kingswood School maps have been updated. The Ashton Court, Durdham Downs, Sidcot School, Yoxter Ranges, Worlebury Woods and Elmlea School maps will be worked on later this year. Trevor's thoughts on the overgrown nature of Gaer Hill had influenced the move of the BOKtrot to Wavering Down. Christophe mentioned some specific places in which the Blaise Castle map is currently incorrect and a general feeling that the whole map needs updating.

Dudley Budden had suggested since the last meeting that many orienteers, including some Planners and Controllers, are currently ill-informed on the conventions used by mappers to represent ground features, particularly walls and fences. This information is set out clearly in the 'International Specification for Orienteering Maps 2000', available to download free from the BOF website. He suggested in an email that all new members should be sent a copy of ISOM 2000. The general feeling was that the content of ISOM 2000 was too difficult for someone just starting out as an orienteer to be faced with, but all Planners and Controllers will be reminded of its existence in their initial instructions and a direct link will be requested on the BOK website.

- d) **Honey report on map-printing.** The committee was in agreement that Alan Honey had done an excellent job in his report, for which we were most thankful. However the Treasurer thought that it would be very useful if Alan could extend his study to cover the actual economics of printing our own maps – how much could we save by doing this? Robin Walker took the contrary view that Alan had shown that it was not desirable for the club to print all its maps, but still felt that a case might be made for taking the simplest possible route to producing a few extra maps for latecomers at low-key events, where perfect quality was not necessary, by using a photocopier and ordinary A4 paper and bagging the results. It might be possible to make a grant application for the purchase of a photocopier for this purpose, on the basis that its use might avoid competitor disappointment. It is hoped that Alan may extend his study in these two opposing directions.
 - e) **Possibility of Purdown POC.** Celia Watkinson has been approached by someone who thinks that he might be able to obtain funding for a POC on Purdown and proposes to discuss the possibility with Bristol City Council. Celia has requested the committee to consider its response to this proposal. The general feeling was that the club should support the proposal, but that there might be problems with map provision (no café on site) and vandalism. It is important that some arrangements for maintaining the course are considered before the course is set up.
 - f) **Squad Information in Membership Lists.** The Secretary brought members' attention to the fact that the most recent Membership List had contained no squad information. The committee's opinion was that such information ought to be included in all future lists, but Martin wondered if it might be possible to produce a combined list which included squad affiliation in the main list rather than print two separate lists.
6. **Any Other Business.**
- Mark Dyer reminded the committee of Dave Maliphant's comments on the BOK Dinner in the May/June BOK News and suggested that we should ask the Juniors to organise a social event that they would enjoy, with club support (and possibly some mentoring). In principle this seemed to be a good idea.
 - The Chairman drew the committee's attention to the second-hand kit shop that Pete Maliphant has been running at recent events for the benefit of the BOK branch of the SW Junior Squad, which seems a highly commendable development.
 - He also reminded the committee that this was the last meeting at which Robin Walker would officiate as Secretary and proposed a vote of thanks for his service in this post over the last 5 years.
7. **Dates of Later Meetings.** The date of the next meeting was agreed as October 1st, to be confirmed at AGM.