

News from the BOK Committee (67) – November 2015

After years of sterling service, David Palmer has stepped down from being club secretary and Patti Rudling has handed over her job as Treasurer. Chris Johnson and Mike Forrest have replaced them. Minutes of the last meeting pack seven sides of A4, so this summary is highly selective.

Events

Alan Honey, our fixtures secretary reported that the 2016 program is coming together nicely with the Mike Nelson BOK Trot arranged for February at Brierley in the Forest of Dean, and a busy summer series coordinated by Mike Forrest. As the whole club was involved with the National Championships this year, we could not organize a BOK Blast, but this popular event will return in early September 2016. The urban race will be run on a new map of the historic town of Wells. Finding a venue for the Saturday sprint has been difficult with permissions refused for several potential areas in Somerset. We are now hoping to stage the sprint races in another new area – the complex housing estates of North Yate.

Mapping

BOK can boast a large, enthusiastic and effective mapping community. Trevor Crowe, the mapping officer, was able to report that at least 12 new maps are in various stages of production, each created by a separate mapper. A mapping course held at the Avon Riding Centre attracted 13 people and was very successful.

Courses

Other educational activities in the near future will include an Event Safety workshop, an Organising Orienteering Events course and, hopefully, a Level B/C controllers course.

Event Organisation

The committee is very grateful to those who volunteer to organise events and we support them with training courses and written material on the club website, including a recently revised and very comprehensive handbook. Sporting clubs and event organisers have a “duty of care” towards those who enter their events. The standard of care expected is rising as safety standards improve generally. A recent review of our systems – part of ‘Clubmark’ re-accreditation – has highlighted that we need to alter our entry procedure so that we gather better contact details about competitors.

An important element of event organization is risk assessment. The document template on our site highlights many of the issues that need to be considered. Ultimately risk management is not about ticking boxes on a form – that just shows that you have done the job - it is about giving thought to all the potential problems that might occur and then working out a response. Currently the quality of the completed forms is variable and if you are unsure of how to fill them in, please seek help. Our insurers may ask to see these documents and external authorities will judge our performance on the basis of the risk assessment, as proof that we adopt a safe approach.

Coordinators

BOK is a large club with a complex structure. We rely on volunteers to keep the system working and provide the constant flow of events that we all enjoy. We shall soon be advertising job descriptions for the roles of:

- Volunteer coordinator – looking after the squad system
- Summer series coordinator – for 2017 series onwards

- Permissions – as an addition to our current team

If you feel that you could contribute in any of the roles, please get in touch with our Chairman, Howard Thomas.

Finally

For a long time in the UK we have referred to our competitions as “Events”, but British Orienteering would like us to change the terminology to ‘race’. Will this encourage more members of the sporting fraternity to come, or will it put off those who prefer a more leisurely introduction to the sport. What do you think?

Chris Johnson
Club Secretary