

News from the BOK Committee – May 2016

The Committee has met twice since the last newsletter, with heavy agendas keeping the members busy. Carol Iddles has taken over from Alan Kempton as our membership secretary; we are very grateful to Alan for his hard work in recent years, and he remains our Klub archivist. Carol has already circulated a questionnaire to all club members to assess their involvement and needs, and is currently re-invigorating the squad system for helpers at events. Jo Foster has kindly agreed to help Miffy Treherne and Simon St-Leger Harris with their onerous task of co-ordinating permissions for our events. The team have around 50 events scheduled at any time and their work is made particularly frustrating when some landowners fail to respond within the timeframes we would like. Land access fees can be highly controversial, as the Little Stoke Council recently discovered when it tried to charge the local Park Run, but the Klub pays considerable amounts each year for land access and these charges form a significant part of the costs of some events.

The way that we pay for the central management of our sport has also been controversial lately. British Orienteering will lose substantial amounts of its government funding soon and proportionately more of its costs will need to be funding by competitors. This can be done either through membership subscriptions, or by a levy on event entry fees. Our treasurer prefers the latter option and his and others' views led to a defeat of BO budget proposals at the AGM in Leeds.

Mapping continues to thrive and we shall see several new maps during the summer series, as well as new maps for the BOK Blast events both this year and next. The 2017 BOK Blast is potentially very exciting with new maps of both Bristol Temple and Harbourside areas in production, and Bristol designated a "European City of Sport" for the year - David Hunt and Mark Dyer are organising. The summer series is now an immense success and Committee agreed to purchase trophies for the course winners of this series, to be awarded at the AGM in September.

Governance issues have taken up a lot of time. The policies required for an organisation to work effectively proliferate as we are expected to incorporate increased standards of safety and safeguarding within our systems. Striking a correct balance between restrictive bureaucracy and the standards demanded of a modern organisation is really difficult and we have spent a lot of time working on and debating policies on our entry systems, electrical safety, and photography (especially of children) at events.

We constantly need new volunteers to make the Klub work and we are currently seeking a replacement fixtures secretary for Alan Honey, a replacement for Mike Forrest who has co-ordinated the summer series for several years, and someone to take on a new role requested by BO to act as a co-ordinator for our Permanent Orienteering Courses. If interested, please let us know.

Chris Johnson
BOK Secretary.