

News from Committee – November 2018

We've held two Committees and the AGM since I last passed on the news from Committee – blame the British Sprint Champs and the need to update two maps for my silence.

As those who attended the AGM know, last year's financial position was healthier than expected. As a result the Treasurer was able recommend a reduction (to zero) in our club membership fees for juniors and most other entry fees will remain unchanged from last year. Good news at the local level, but over the next few years British Orienteering faces an enormous drop in the central support grants it receives – a problem that will radically alter the amount of support it can offer, especially to our elite athletes.

Over the summer all our SI boxes were left in contactless mode and we discussed whether or not they should revert to conventional punching for the winter events. We decided to continue to offer contactless punching. Once one is accustomed to the contactless technique, reverting to dibbing seems old-fashioned – especially when attending a major event such as the recent Southern Championships. The hire rate for our own stock of SIAC dibbers will for now remain the same as for other types of dibber, but we shall need to keep this under review as contactless punching uses up more battery power in both the control boxes and the dibber itself, which will have revenue costs in the long term. Please also be aware that the charge for losing a club SIAC dibber is significantly greater than for the older devices.

The South West Regional League has for decades been called the 'Galoppen', a title whose origins are lost in the mists of time, and thus rather off-putting to newcomers. We have proposed to the SWOA Committee that the name is changed to League and that it should involve an increased number of events across the Region. Things won't alter until at least Autumn 2019, but we hope this will improve participation in this League.

The amalgamation of the Avon Schools Orienteering with BOK continues, with a lot of behind the scenes work to maintain continuity during the transfer. Another persistent agenda item is the GDPR change to data protection regulation. It is amazing how many databases, both digital and paper, are used within the club. Most contain only information normally available within the public domain, but we still need to ensure that these files are managed appropriately. If you have organised an event in the past, it is quite possible that somewhere on your hard drive you may have retained entry or results information including individual contact details. Please could you review your hard drives and paper files, and discard all items that are now out-of-date or irrelevant.

As a sport, orienteering is very good at offering courses to enhance the skills of its participants and volunteers. I get a regular stream of information about organizing, planning and controlling events, safety workshops and first-aid updates. If anyone would like to attend a course please let your team leader or someone on Committee know and we can pass on details.

Chris Johnson
BOK Secretary