

Items of interest from Committee Meeting held on May 22nd 2008.

1. Update on current Regional Development Officer work. Celia Watkinson's report divided into two parts, updates on the club's situation with respect to Clubmark, and on those of her RDO activities which were relevant to BOK. The Clubmark status has to be renewed every four years and during those years an annual review should take place of the status of the various Clubmark requirements - coaches in place, First Aid provision, members with equity training, etc. Celia is happy to coordinate the review this year on a voluntary basis as a BOK member. She will make the necessary enquiries, by email where possible. Philip Fawkner-Corbett mentioned that BOK has had a Club Welfare Officer (Ian Cawley) for some months now – reported to SWOA earlier this year. On RDO activities, Celia said that these mainly concerned Clubmark developments in orienteering clubs and creating school-club links. The exact definition of such links was not very clear, but they involved things like making sure that juniors heard about orienteering through their schools, arranging mapping of school grounds, training teachers, ensuring that children experienced orienteering at sports festivals. Celia tabled a report of her recent and forthcoming activities of this nature in the Bristol area. Very good links were developing in South Gloucestershire. A long discussion on the suitability of a Thornbury map for a full CATI event led to the suggestion that two events might be staged, one for Bristol and a limited one using the Thornbury map for the SGlos area. Celia admitted that there is still a gap between school orienteering activities and the usual 'Sunday morning' type of orienteering event. The Chairman reported that his working committee has identified a need for a broader role for BOK to encompass junior orienteering in addition to the role of ASOA. Celia was happy to attend a meeting of the working committee if this was thought to be desirable.

Celia had suggested to the Secretary that BOK should join Wesport, now a limited company. The committee had no objection to this.

Celia had received an offer from a Scout leader in the Weston area to provide man power to maintain the Worlebury Permanent Orienteering Course. A long discussion of the Worlebury course revealed that this was quite out of date, with many of the original sites no longer in existence and much work required in re-siting posts, with no money available from Somerset Council. Although grants may be obtained to create new POCs, funding for renovation may be much more difficult to find. Celia will provide the Committee with a list of organisations from whom funding might be sought. It was agreed that the course should no longer be advertised on the BOK website – it should be marked 'out of use'. The Secretary will convey this message, with thanks, to those who have offered to help us maintain it. Dudley Budden reported that Jim Hayward had offered to make a detailed assessment of the condition of the course, but he had heard nothing as yet. He will ask Jim about progress.

Celia had also received information about an event at Blaise Castle on June 14th, which will encourage outdoor activities as part of 'Love Parks Week'. It was agreed that BOK will be present on this day, with maps of the Blaise POC for sale and other information on club events available. 500 leaflets will be obtained from BOF and overprinted with club publicity. Some of the coloured Informal leaflets will also be available, though the series will be halfway through by then. The committee congratulated Jonathan Hurford on the production of these leaflets, and (together with Celia) on their funding by BOF. Another event will be held, for schools, at Bath University on June 13th, with Jim Hayward as coordinator and John Lewis also involved.

2. Matters Arising.

- **National 2009.** Sally Thomas had attended a useful meeting with Forestry Commission representatives on May 8th. The planning ranger had seemed very keen to accommodate us. A map had been provided showing buffer zones for various birds, though routes which merely passed through these zones might be acceptable. Philip had contacted BOF for ecological guidance and had found their information to be distinctly out of date – dated 1991. The event will include the Futures Cup but no sprint event is envisaged for the Friday.
- **BOK Dinner.** The Chairman felt that his initiative in inviting Chris and Gill James from NGOC to join us had been a very positive feature, with Chris speaking on BOF matters and being acquainted with our club's very negative views on the new 2009 BOF levy structure.

- **Map Availability.** Dudley reported that, of 100 unused maps at the Mike Nelson BOK Trot, 49 had been paid for by people who did not appear on the day. Only one person had informed the organiser in advance so that his map could be used by another runner.
- **BOK Colour Leaflet.** Modifications are in hand, with good awareness of copyright matters. A print run will be initiated shortly, but only after a final draft is seen by the committee.

3. Reports

- Captains.** Helen Kelsey said that most things had already been reported in BOK News and on the website. The Klub weekend has been fixed for the 21st/22nd June at Pembrey Country Park, using an SBOC district event on the Saturday and their 2x2 relays on the Sunday. Mark Saunders has agreed to control the Saturday event.
- Treasurer.** Mark Dyer reported that the Klub finances are currently well placed following the successful events of Spring 2008. Mark cautioned though that, had the new BOF levies been in place this year, the income on these events would have been appreciably reduced. The Committee will need to be mindful of the impact of these levies on future budgeting. Mark has already communicated his unease at the new levy structure to Neil Cameron but will draft a formal letter from the club to BOF, copy to SWOA, pointing out the expected burden and the illogic of penalising high entry numbers when one of BOF's professed objects is to increase participation. Mark reported his discussions with Jackie Hallett on the purchase of a new batch of club O tops. Prices have increased considerably, only partly due to the strength of the Euro. £5 could be saved from the price if the BOK logo were removed from the front of the shirt, but a large majority of the committee were against this and in favour of consistency in the club 'uniform'. New BGS shirts were thought to be of good quality and cheaper, but probably simpler in design. Mark will check with Jo Foster on the unlikely possibility that the BOK design could be obtained more cheaply from the BGS supplier and, if not, give Jackie the go-ahead to obtain a new batch of the existing design, which would then sell at about £35 seniors, £30 juniors assuming some subsidy from the club. Philip reported that the club will also support Chris Farr on a Level 2 coaching course, sharing the costs 50:50 with SWOA.
- Secretary.** Only three items required report:-
 - Email from Arthur Vince announcing Grade 3 Controllers course to be held on July 5th at Priddy. Dudley reported that only one of his prospective attendees - Katy Dyer - had so far enrolled. He will remind the others again.
 - Request from Arthur Vince for a volunteer to be a corresponding member of the BOF International Committee – all other vacancies filled.
 - Announcement by Celia of Level 2 Coaching courses to be held in September/October.
- SWOA Rep.** The Secretary had been unable to attend the SWOA committee meeting on April 30th but minutes had since been received and circulated. Relevant items are dealt with above. A report on JK 2010 progress included the information that clubs will soon be formally asked to offer their help – it might be advantageous to volunteer early if any particular task is preferred. The next SWOA committee meeting is scheduled for June 25th.
- ASO Rep.** Martin Helder's draft of a suggested Whistle Policy for BOK, to fit in with that adopted by ASO, was accepted by the committee, with one sentence deleted. Martin reported that a protest letter on the unfairness of the 2009 levy system had been sent to BOF from ASO. A school at Stroud has asked to join ASO. The low turnout at Walcombe was thought to be partially explained by its timing during school holidays – this should be avoided whenever possible. The ASO League will need to use some events from other neighbouring clubs next year and this is currently under investigation. The BOK summer Informal series is being advertised in member schools. Martin reported that only four people regularly turn up to ASO committee meetings and this may reduce to three next year. Unless schools wish to be part of the ASO system it will not work. An interested teacher is almost essential for any significant involvement by any given school. Dudley suggested that we need to get the views of schools development officers on what event structure is needed – Sunday events may not be ideal. Martin felt that the schools league needed to fit into the current structure. He will consult with the ASOA Committee with regard to the future running of ASOA and its relationship to BOK juniors.
- Web-site.** Steve Horton had sent a report on web-site developments, circulated before the meeting. His

question concerning club policy on photos of juniors on the website will be revisited at the next meeting, after consultation with our Welfare Officer. Helen reported that she and Chris had taken many pictures of juniors and others at the BOK Trot and she had emailed all parents asking permission for the photos to appear on the website, but this was obviously a time-consuming business.

- g) **Subcommittee re volunteers.** The Chairman reported that he had met with Mark and Sally and discussed a number of issues – mapping responsibilities, overuse of key personnel in the squad system, event records, feedback on membership, Saturday events, junior orienteering, future budgeting (assuring continuity of income) – but he felt that this was not the right time for a full account. The Secretary pointed out that feedback on membership came automatically to the squad coordinator (currently Tricia Walker) as part of the task of allocating members to squads. Tricia will retire from this post in September, but reiterated that she will be happy to help a new recruit pick up the threads of the task.

4. Fixtures

a) Held.

15.03.08 WNL Silkwood; Organiser/Planner Christophe Mutricy.

16.03.08 BOK/ASO league Silkwood; Organiser Stephanie Milne, Planner Philip Fawkner-Corbett, Controller Mark Dyer.

06.04.08 BOK/ASO league Walcombe; Organiser Helen Kelsey, Planner Chris Kelsey, Controller Phil Warry.

11.05.08 Mike Nelson BOK Trot Brierley; Organisers Grenfell-Shaws, Planners Rupert Gladstone and Dudley Budden, Controller Bill Vigar (QO).

The two Silkwood events now seemed a very long time ago, with both Walcombe and the inaugural Mike Nelson BOK Trot intervening between them and this meeting, but both had gone very well. Attendance at the Walcombe event had probably suffered from the weather and from its timing during half-term. That the event had occurred at all was a credit to those who had put it on – a triumph of BOK helpers over the elements. In contrast the BOK Trot weather had been superb, making it a very enjoyable social occasion. The courses had been very good, with the planners successfully overcoming problems associated with bird exclusion zones. Mark reported a problem which had arisen associated with different requirements on visibility of maps for course JM1 compared to White. These courses are physically identical, but JM1 runners have 2 minutes before the start to look at their maps, with no outside help, whereas White course competitors have unlimited time and may be helped by others. A complaint had been resolved amicably.

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

b) Future, including costing for Rat Race assistance.

Clare Fletcher provided copies of her most recent fixture list. The BOK Champs have had to be postponed until the Autumn this year owing to problems with finding a date suitable to the orienteering calendar and to the availability of the planners. After some discussion the best possibility seemed to be to combine the Champs with the BOK/ASO event on October 5th at Leigh Woods, the original suggestion of September 27th being unsuitable. With the new departure of a Saturday League, a Long O and a Sprint O the programme appears pleasantly varied.

Clare was not sure of the exact Rat Race requirements. There was general agreement that a charge of £1 per map was reasonable. Dudley reported that he had been approached about controls and punches at Blaise Castle and provision of maps here also. The committee's understanding was that we would provide Purdown maps and allow use of controls put out for the BOK/ASO event, with nothing further suggested.

5. Other Matters

a) Publicity, including Colour Leaflets. Jonathan Hurford had reported as follows :-

1. Paul Johnson has been briefed for the redraft of the Klub brochure, including some very useful comments received from Caroline Povey, BOF marketing manager. As soon as I receive proposals

I will circulate.

2. Informals leaflets – Celia has arranged for BOF to pay £170 for 500 colour double-sided copies. These have all now been distributed
 - 180 distributed at Klub dinner
 - 60 to Ashton Park Sport Academy
 - 60 to Grace Davies at Thornbury
 - 120 to Celia Watkinson
 - 80 distributed by publicity officer to various scout groups, libraries and sports centres.
 3. Informals leaflets – I've also displayed some b&w photocopies of the brochure on wire loops, which have been going like hot cakes at following locations
 - 150 at Ashton Court Golf café
 - 120 from Leigh Woods, notice board by car-park
 - 50 from Blaise
- It will be very interesting to see what happens to attendance levels.

The committee were keen to congratulate Jonathan on his wonderful efforts to publicise the Klub's activities. His poster-style advertisements for events are much more useful than flyers for people unfamiliar with orienteering, while flyers remain essential for regular orienteers.

- b) **Coaching.** No report from Jackie this time. Helen reported that coaching may be provided at the Klub weekend if this seems to be required. She also mentioned that two of our Juniors, Ben Maliphant and Isla Simmons, had been chosen for the summer squad tour to Lagganlia and Badaguish. Congratulations from the committee.
- c) **Mapping, including possibility of Sprint map of harbour area.** Dudley reported that he is working on several maps, including Yate, Coombe Dingle and Bath University (for a summer festival). He had mapped about 50 schools and Mark Blackstone 20 in the last 18 months. He had obtained an estimated costing of £700 for Oli Johnson's offer to map the harbour area for use in a Sprint O. Oli is suggesting that the work would be done in June/July. After some discussion it was clear that, although the committee was reluctant to pass up this opportunity, it was not clear that there was sufficient local interest in Sprint O to guarantee that the £700 investment would be recouped, unless a major event could be held. If there had been time to seek sponsorship the situation might have been different. Sally agreed to find out how the City Cup Sprint series is organised. Dudley will reply to Oli thanking him for his offer but saying that the club feels unable to commit to the necessary expense without sponsorship.
- d) **Date and Venue for AGM.** Various possibilities were discussed but in the end Friday still seemed better for most people and Friday September 12th was chosen as a provisional date. Possible venues will be investigated, with the YMCA Cricket Club or a pub with a skittle alley two suggestions.
- e) **Radios – rent or buy?** Rental at the BOK Trot had cost about £100 and this was still felt to be the correct procedure, with several members unconvinced of the usefulness of the cheaper type of radio, despite their successful use at some BOK events.
6. **Dates of Later Meetings.** The date of the next meeting was agreed as July 10th,