

Items of interest from Committee Meeting held on July 10th 2008.

1. Matters Arising.

- **Worlebury Permanent Orienteering Course.** There was some discussion of whether re-mapping would be needed before new posts are set up, but Dudley Budden felt that only vegetation screens would need changing. As the Scouts have offered to erect the posts, the only cost should be the materials, but some members of the committee were reluctant to commit BOK funds to this until an approximate cost is known.
- **'Love Parks' Event at Blaise Castle.** Tricia Walker reported that she, Anne Donnell, Christophe Mutricy and Robin Walker had represented BOK at this event, but not many people had attended, probably because the event did not appear to have been widely advertised. The coloured leaflets advertising the Summer Informals, produced by Martin Helfer, had been given out and about 10 maps of the Blaise POC had been sold but this did not really justify the effort entailed. Martin has now produced multiple copies of a new version of the leaflet with the coloured BOF material on one side and a list of forthcoming events on the reverse. This was welcomed by the committee.
- **BOK Weekend.** Helen Kelsey reported that about 33 people had attended and the weekend had worked well, with SBOC pleased to have us to boost numbers at their events. All reactions had been very positive.
- **Photos of Juniors on Website.** Martin Helfer reported that ASO are attempting to draft a policy, but this would not cover all BOK juniors. After some discussion it was agreed that we should only publish photos of known juniors where parental agreement has been obtained. Helen agreed to check all junior photographs before publication on the website and will contact Steve Horton to set up a process for doing this. Martin reported that the next BOK Newsletter after the one currently being printed will have a section on children in orienteering. A brief article on photography would be appropriate.
- **Rat Race.** The maps had not cost as much as expected and the organisers had been charged 50p per map, less than the amount the committee had originally suggested. There was some feeling that the costing should be agreed in advance in future years but any discussion was postponed until such time as our help is requested.
- **Information on City Cup Sprint series.** It seems that the series has been cancelled for this year. Three events had been suggested, in Oxford, Edinburgh and Sheffield, but did not seem to have occurred. Sally Thomas has approached Bristol City Council for a reaction to the possibility of such events, but had received no reply as yet.

2. Reports

- a) **Captains.** Helen Kelsey reiterated that the Klub weekend had gone well. A BOK team of 10 had run in the Cotswold Way Relay on June 26th and come in at a very respectable 12th from 24 mixed teams. Phil Warry will coordinate the club's entry for this event next year after many year's of sterling service from Ashley Cooper in this role. The club will also be represented in the Dorset Coast Path Relay on July 19th, Tim Britton acting as leader and organiser. There had been some significant BOK successes at the World Masters in Portugal, with Alice Bedwell and Anne Donnell taking Bronze medals in W45 and W75 respectively and Jackie Hallett coming sixth in W50, having won her heat. The committee recorded their congratulations on these outstanding performances. Helen then raised the question of a club subsidy for the BOK team at the Compass Sport Cup Final at Sutton Park on October 19th. After some discussion the Treasurer agreed to a maximum of £300, to include the surplus from the qualifying round. There was some feeling that a coach would encourage a club spirit but the distance is not very great so take-up might not be large.
- b) **Treasurer, including 2009 BOF levies.** Mark Dyer presented a preliminary study of our cash flow for the last year. All events staged had made a profit and the current excess of income over expenditure was approximately £2000. However, Mark pointed out that two large items would not recur next year – a windfall payment following a Building Society takeover and the profit from the British Night Championships. We also had an unprecedentedly high attendance at Tyntesfield and a very well-supported Galoppen. With an imminent outlay of about £2000 on a new batch of O-tops the club's financial situation was healthy, but caution was indicated. Mark will close the books at the end of July in preparation for the AGM.

Mark had circulated before the meeting his estimate of how an application of the new BOF levy structure, agreed at the BOF AGM for 2009 onwards, would have affected the amount the club paid to BOF for this year's events so far, a preparation for his planned submission to BOF. Excluding the British Night Championships as a one-off, the result was a massive increase of £1210, from £1849 to £3059. Clearly this could not just be absorbed. Mark had set out the effects of various actions – increasing entry fees, discontinuing free runs for helpers, increasing membership fees – and these were discussed at some length. As entry fees from September 2008 and membership fees for 2009 will need to be fixed at the AGM, it was important for the committee to give Mark some guidance on which route to choose. It was agreed that free runs for helpers are a desirable way of thanking active club members and that an increase in membership fees would not be related obviously enough to the increased levies. Mark agreed to recommend at the AGM an appropriate increase in entry fees to cover the new BOF levies, though it is clear that this will make BOK events less attractive financially than those of other clubs – those running smaller events with less junior participation – who will be less seriously affected by the changes. It was noted that 'Juniors-only' events may be exempt from BOF levy. Perhaps the ASO part of BOK events could be run in parallel with the rest as 'Juniors-only' competitions (these events consistently have more Junior than Senior competitors resulting in very large levy increases under the new regime). Finally Mark reminded us that toilet hire is a major component of an event's expenses and organisers are not checking with him on expenditure items over £150, as agreed at an earlier meeting.

c) Secretary. Several items required report or discussion:-

- Letter of thanks from Radio Orienteers for the club's help during the BOK Trot weekend.
- Information on a Forest Stewardship Weekend on September 27/28th suggesting a possible link to one of our events. Nothing seems suitable on these dates.
- Request from Sense, a deaf/blind charity, for involvement in their 5k run/walk. Declined as no possible map reading content.
- Request for a travel grant for the BOF Badaguish tour from Isla Simmons. Agreed by email exchange to match SWOA grant of £75.
- Report from Celia Watkinson that some Primary Times advertising will be funded by British Orienteering.
- Information from Celia on the next BOF deadline for grant applications. Forwarded to committee. Katy Dyer has prepared an application for funding for a Wavering Down Youth Orienteering Project. The project has several stages and will involve the production of a new orienteering map of Barton Camp by young BOK members, a BOF Young Leaders course, an orienteering day at the Camp for school age teenagers, a programme of after-school orienteering tuition and finally a schools Orienteering Festival based at the Camp and using a new map of the Wavering Down/ Crook Peak ridge produced specially for the project. The committee were most impressed by this excellent project and wished Katy every success.
- Request, via Celia, for an introductory orienteering session on a Tuesday evening from Redland Woodcraft Folk. Celia had already declined and pointed them towards our CATI events, and this seems the appropriate response.
- Information on various Sport England databases via Celia – she will attend a launch meeting.
- Request from Alan Honey for the committee's endorsement for his application to become a Grade 3 Controller. Given unanimous approval by the committee and signed by the Secretary. Mark tabled Katy's Grade 3 application at the meeting, with the same result. The forms will be forwarded to Arthur Vince for SWOA's consideration at the next committee meeting.

d) SWOA Rep. A SWOA committee meeting had taken place on June 25th but the minutes were not yet available.

A SWOA 2008 Technical Conference will be held at Millfield on December 6th. The SWOA AGM will be held on the Caddihoe Saturday as usual. The question of whether clubs wanted SWOA courses for Planners and Organisers had come up once again. The committee felt that it was probably better for a large club like BOK to manage these things internally. However, the news that Roger Hargreaves had updated the BOF PowerPoint displays for Planner and Organiser courses was greeted with interest. Roger had indicated his willingness to provide copies of the updated displays if required and the

committee will attempt to take up this offer. Brief discussion of the recent SWOA Grade 3 Controllers' course led Mark Dyer to report that Katy and Arthur Vince had concerns about some safety aspects of current event practice. Katy will be asked to put these concerns to the next BOK committee meeting. The next SWOA committee meeting is scheduled for October 1st.

- e) **ASO Rep.** Martin Helfer reported that the BOK Chairman had attended an ASO committee meeting on June 25th. All next year's ASO League events were fixed, though spacings were not ideal – it would be better to have more events in the autumn. At the ASO meeting the future of junior orienteering within BOK had been discussed. Although quite a lot was going on - through our RDO, ASO itself, Chris Farr in SGlos - it was felt that more coordination was needed. Dudley suggested that what was needed was an Avon Development Officer for orienteering, working perhaps 10 hours per week. School sports coordinators or enhancers are no answer – they will only advocate events in school time. Mark felt that ASO should be pushed as the coordinating focus for junior orienteering in the area. Martin reported that John Lewis has volunteered to look at registration slips for ASO events to locate children who are not running for their school within ASO but could be. It was pointed out that in some cases there may be a very good reason – the child may prefer to run a more technical course than their school age would allow. The relevant registration slips will be passed on to John.
- f) **Web-site, including POC maps on web.** Steve Horton had sent a report on web-site developments, circulated before the meeting. Once again members were surprised that 60 people who were not members of BOK should wish to receive the BOK bulletin. A long discussion of the availability of the POC maps for Blaise Castle and Ashton Court on the Bristol City Council website finally concluded with the view that no action was necessary. There was a possible argument that the club should assert its copyright of the maps, but any financial effect would be minimal. It seemed likely that the maps had been scanned-in, so any updates would presumably be made in the same way.

3. Fixtures

a) Held.

28.05.08 – 09.07.08 Six summer informals, overall organiser Christophe Mutricy. Christophe reported that these events had gone well, though one had been rather short of numbers and one had been very wet. Numbers had varied from the 80s to the 30s, with many new faces. The series must certainly be repeated next year.

15.06.08 BOK/ASO League Purdown; Organiser Ben Moon, Planner Alan Honey, Controller Charles Daniel. The event had gone well, with the Rat Race fitting in with the main event in a non-intrusive way. The vegetation had been a challenge in some areas with head-high nettles giving the First Aid team some unusual injuries and a possible case of anaphylactic shock. Dudley reported that there had been a surplus of 128 maps across all courses and 121 at the previous event at Walcombe.

21/22.06.08 Klub weekend Pembrey; Organiser Helen Kelsey. The SBOC events had been greatly enjoyed by all, as had the rounders match.

06.07.08 Adams/Avery Relays Stock Hill; Organiser Neil Russell-Bates, Planner Terry Haines, Controller Mike Forrest, assisted by Matt Lyle on the day. The organiser had reported that the event had been a very good social occasion, despite rather wet weather, with most people staying to the end. The lack of a Controller presence on the day had been a disadvantage to the first-time Organiser and Planner, though Matt Lyle had been very helpful.

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

b) Future.

Clare Fletcher provided copies of her most recent fixture list. The main events were fully manned until January. Several members expressed a doubt that it would be possible to run a CATI event on the Downs on a Saturday, 06.09.08, as this was likely to clash with the Downs Football League, using much of the area. If the League is found to be operational on that day an alternative venue will be sought. No venue has yet been chosen for the Saturday League and Night events on 14.02.09. A plea for more events in Autumn 2009 was heard sympathetically – the programme has yet to be filled out, with only the major events fixed so far. It was reported that Tim Britton has suggested Aztec West as a good area for a sprint map and event.

4. Other Matters

- a) **Publicity.** Chrstophe reported that Jonathan Hurford's displays of the Informals leaflets at places like the Ashton Court Golf café had been very successful in producing participants.
 - b) **Coaching.** Helen thought that not much had happened since the last meeting. Philip Fawkner-Corbett asked whether the club now had fewer coaches than in earlier years. There was some discussion of how much coaching took place within schools and how much outside. Clearly coaching within schools will only occur where there is a teacher who is an active orienteer.
 - c) **Mapping.** Dudley Budden reported that the High Meadow map is 75% complete, expected to be finished in August. A vegetation survey will be needed in October/November before the Galoppen. Trevor Crowe has agreed to update the Stock Hill map before the next event there. Dudley has two other areas in mind but is resting at present. He pointed out that last year's events had cost the club very little in mapping charges. It might be desirable to allocate a yearly budget for mapping which could be carried forward if not used. On the question of the Aztec West Sprint map neither the permissions situation nor the identity of a suitable mapper was clear.
- 5. Any Other Business.** The Chairman pointed out that there were two key positions to be filled with Tricia Walker's retirement as Squad Liaison and Dudley's as Mapping Officer. No other committee members indicated a desire to retire this year. The vacancies will be highlighted on the sheet announcing the AGM scheduled to go in the next Newsletter.
- 6. Dates of Later Meetings.** The date of the next meeting was agreed as September 18th.