

News from the BOK Committee – January 2016

The past couple of months have seen a good many changes in the way the Klub is organised, some hidden and others more obvious. Thanks to Neil Connelly's efforts in gathering the evidence, we have renewed our Clubmark accreditation, but the process involved revealed some weaknesses in our systems that we have been tackling. Most obvious has been the need to alter our entry system as we discovered that we really didn't know enough about who was competing to deal with a serious incident – the direct dibber entry system was not linking people's SI card to their contact details. We are continuing to work on solutions to this problem.

Behind the scenes Mike Forrest has established a new on-line banking system which gives greater accountability and ensures that any expenditure has to be approved by at least two members of the Klub Committee.

Updated British Orienteering policies on Safeguarding, Photography and on Risk Management have to be incorporated into our working practices and may cause longer-established members of the Klub to shake their heads in despair, but the governance of our sport must conform to National standards and accept that these are issues that have given cause for concern in many fields of sport. The full BO Safeguarding policy is a worthy, but turgid, document and Anne Palmer has done a wonderful job summarising it on behalf of the Club.

For the first time in over fifteen years, the IOF has revised its core advice on mapping and sent a draft to National federations for comments. The devil is in the detail and could prove controversial in the UK. A key recommendation that point symbols should not overlap and that surveying should be done at 1:15,000 could mean that many of our more detailed maps of mining and charcoal burning areas would need to be surveyed and mapped very differently. One suspects that the standards are better applicable to untamed wilderness than to areas that have been modified by mankind for several millennia.

Those with sharp eyes may have spotted that the ASOA has transformed to ASO – a recognition that schools outside the Avon area are wanting to be associated with the league.

Last time I asked whether we should be using the term 'event' or 'race', and I received strongly expressed views supporting both. So another question for you: Where has route choice gone? Over many years on a typical blue course, the number of controls seems to have increased from the low-teens to the early 20's, but the opportunities for route choice have proportionately declined as controls are increasingly clustered. Is a course with 25 controls more or less good value than one with 12?