

Notes from the Autumn BOK Committees

Autumn has been a busy time for your secretary, with the Klub Annual General Meeting and the first two Committee meetings of the new season coming in quick succession. My preparations for the AGM were disrupted by the sudden demise of my desktop computer three days beforehand, although fortunately all my files were backed-up so it was a costly rather than disastrous distraction. Other officials have also had tribulations, with two of our events having to be re-scheduled at short notice. Many thanks go to the organisers, fixtures secretary and permissions team for developing alternative plans, a huge amount of additional work.

31 Klub members attended the AGM, conveniently and sociably located in a pub. The Committee was pleased to report another very successful year with 33 events organised by the Klub and numerous podium finishes for our leading runners. As I write, we have just won the UKUL league for the third year in succession.

Changes at National level will impact on the Klub next year. Central funding for orienteering is dropping significantly and the funding gap must be partially plugged by increases in membership fees and the entry levy. The Klub cannot absorb these increased costs, so Mike Forrest as Treasurer has recommended modest increases in entry fees, to take effect from the New Year, while reducing the Klub membership fee. When our fees for next year were set at the AGM, we did not know the outcome of the BOF EGM, so we shall have to reconsider the level of our event entry fees during 2017.

The use of the Fabian online booking system for the Urban & Parks series proved very successful – reducing paperwork on the day and enabling contact information to be collected quickly and easily. We plan to extend its use to most events next season.

Following election at the AGM, Alan Honey has become our Klub Chair, while Christian Saxtoft has taken over Alan's job as Fixture Secretary. Future events take up a lot of discussion time, with plans already well-advanced for next summer's exciting BOK Blast spread over two days in Bristol City Centre, and several members of the Klub taking on important roles in the organization of the 2018 National Sprint and Middle Distance races, to be held in Bath and the Mendips. Planners may be delighted to hear that Committee have agreed to replace our long-serving aluminium control stakes with lighter and more convenient fiberglass poles –making it much easier to position and collect controls.

Much effort went into producing a Klub photographic policy aligned to the 2015 BO National Safeguarding Policy. Just when we thought the work was over, British Orienteering revised its policy, the updated version having a very different emphasis. Whilst welcoming its more encouraging principles, Committee now has to revise our policy. Such are the joys of bureaucracy.

From the New Year all organisers, planners and controllers must have attended an Event Safety workshop. About a third of the Klub have already attended one of these entertaining and useful seminars but if you have not yet managed to get to a workshop we would encourage you to attend as soon as possible so that we maintain our pool of event officials.

The club depends upon its volunteers and Carol Iddles is doing a great job coordinating these efforts. We are delighted that Nick Rickard has agreed to become manager of our Permanent Orienteering Courses, while John Fielder will take over from Mark Blackstone as leader of Vehicle Management.

Chris Johnson
BOK Secretary
November 2016.