

## Notes from Committee – May 2018

It's been a really exciting couple of months for the club. Highlights for me have included the running weekend in the Forest of Dean put on in conjunction with the OMM organization, where the venue had a great buzz and the number of entrants (445) to the BOK Trot was the largest for 10 years. Then we celebrated World Orienteering Day brilliantly with about 350 schoolchildren enjoying themselves orienteering in Oldbury Court Park in perfect weather, followed by another 80 runners competing in an evening urban event.

Tapping into the skills of other organisations is really worthwhile. The OMM website provided a great showcase for the BOK Trot. Wesport offered to invite schools on our behalf to this year's WOD event. Schools initially asked to bring over 500 pupils, although this exceeded our capability to coach, so we ended up restricting attendance to certain year groups. In both cases the collaborations yielded better results for less effort than we could have managed ourselves and we hope to continue these collaborations.

Training new orienteering coaches is difficult and expensive, but is something that our Chairman has been really keen to do. Recently Jim Hayward arranged a coaching course with eight orienteers attending, four of whom are members of BOK. Helen Kelsey has already made use of her skills in arranging the very successful Track to Terrain teaching program for novices, with 22 people attending, nine of whom have already joined the club. Mark Dyer kindly arranging a controllers' course with five BOK members completing that part of the qualification process.

It is fantastic to have all this going on, but Committee is very aware that it can only happen because the club includes many members who are prepared to give up huge amounts of time for the sport. Some of the stalwarts within the club are reaching a point where they feel the need to reduce their commitments, and this is placing increasing strain on the volunteer squads. We may soon reach a point where we have to consider buying in external skills to manage aspects of the bigger events; something that would add to entry costs, but would reduce the strain on our core of regular volunteers.

Behind the scenes, we have had unexciting but very time-consuming tasks to complete. The consultation period for our new club constitution has finished, so we hope that it will be agreed at the AGM without controversy. The new data protection regulations (GDPR) also forced us to spend a lot of time trawling through the appropriate websites to create a new Privacy Document and audit our information databases. Though little of the information we hold is sensitive, there are aspects of our data protection that could be improved and we'll undertake this work over the summer.

Finally, a note for your diary; the club's AGM will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October, a chance for you to feed your views back to Committee.

Chris Johnson  
BOK Secretary