

Items of interest from Committee Meeting held on March 13th 2008

1. **National 2009.** Dave Urch reported on the current situation of 2009's planned 0007 weekend. The large field behind Speech House has been secured for all three days for car-parking and assembly, with an NGOC event on Mallard's Pike on the Saturday, BOK's National event on New Beechenhurst on the Sunday and South Wales running an event on Cannop Ponds on the Monday. The main problem, and the reason for discussing the event at this meeting, was the restriction placed on the use of particular areas of the map because of the presence of nesting goshawks. Restrictions will apply from mid February to the end of August and the areas concerned will not be finally known until the birds begin nesting in February next year, making the guideline to have 'outline courses' a year ahead of the event impossible. Various possible actions were discussed and it is clear that an early decision is needed if the event, or the whole weekend, turns out not to be viable. However, the Forestry Commission have indicated a readiness to sort the problem out if possible, with a meeting suggested for mid April.
2. **Matters Arising.**
 - Arthur Vince is hoping to run a SWOA Grade 3 Controllers course in late Spring or early Summer, venue to be determined. Dudley Budden reported that we may now have as many as five people interested.
 - Dudley warned the committee that this is likely to be his last year as Mapping Officer. He felt that this post should be separate from the performance of the club's mapping, with an independent point of view desirable on when it is necessary to call in outside help.
 - Clare Fletcher showed the committee a suitable design for new 'Ask Me' vests and it was agreed that three would be bought forthwith, colour orange, to be kept with Registration equipment.
3. **Reports**
 - a) **Captains.** Helen Kelsey reported that the club had thirteen teams entered in the Relays at the JK but only three teams at the British Championships.
 - b) **Treasurer.** Mark Dyer reported that both events held since the last meeting – ASO at Tyntesfield and the British Night Championships at New Beechenhurst - had been very profitable. The club's Deposit and Current accounts taken together held about £5000, including the CS Cup surplus, but with around £1000 of liabilities. Using last year as a model it seems likely that our situation at the AGM in September will be very similar to that of last year. In other words the club's financial situation is good, with sufficient money for equipment purchases like those requested at the last meeting, but any major exercise, like a significant mapping tender, would have to be considered very carefully.
 - c) **Secretary.** Correspondence items still current and not mentioned elsewhere:-
 - Information received from BOF on EU Habitat regulations
 - Comments on the lack of publicity for last year's SWOA Relay Series and suggestions for how this might be improved for this year's renewal; reported at recent SWOA committee meeting.
 - First edition of a new SW Junior Squad newsletter
 - Final report on Katy Dyer's First Aid courses
 - d) **SWOA Rep.** Points of interest from SWOA committee meeting of February 20th were:-
 - Erik Peckett had asked whether BOK and NGOC would lend their SI equipment to JK 2010 or provide it for rent. The committee was unanimous that rental would be required.
 - At Arthur Vince's suggestion the SWOA committee voted to increase their support for Juniors selected for International teams to 50 percent of the required contribution (Juniors defined as under 21 and in full-time education). After some discussion the committee agreed to match this in the present case but to treat each future case on its merits.
 - Regional representatives are needed on several BOF committees – Development, Major Events, Senior Competitions, International – and members are encouraged to apply if interested.
 - e) **ASO Rep.** Martin Helfer distributed copies of a suggested Whistle Policy for BOK, to fit in with that adopted by ASO. As adults are only 'encouraged' to carry whistles, there is no problem with family groups on White and Yellow courses not carrying whistles if the adult is assumed to take responsibility. The committee will consider the Policy for adoption at the next meeting.

The Primary Times article on orienteering had produced many enquiries both to Martin and to Celia Watkinson.

Since the last meeting Martin, Jonathan Hurford and Celia had met with two Competition Managers for Bristol (Lisa Blacow) and North Somerset (Lee Ward), who are paid from government funds to make sure that sport is occurring in schools. It had been suggested that festivals of orienteering which they were holding in schools during the summer might be linked to our Informals, but it is not their responsibility to encourage children to continue with sport outside school (in contrast to a swimming initiative mentioned by Mark Dyer which tried to draw children into local clubs) so we can only expect to provide them with information on the club and events.

- f) **Web-site.** Steve Horton had sent a report on web-site developments. We now have access to a page of orienteering video clips. There had been much activity on the site since the last meeting because of the interest in the Tyntesfield event and the BNC, with many visits and many emails. Philip Fawkner-Corbett reported that he had asked Steve to add the BOK Dinner and Committee Meeting dates to the club diary, and also the BOK News copy dates.

4. Fixtures

a) **Held.**

10.02.08 BOK/ASO league Tyntesfield; Organisers Grenfells, Planner Dave Parkin, Controller Mike Forrest.

23.02.08 British Night Champs, New Beechenhurst; Organiser Mark Blackstone, Planner Andy Creber, Controller Allan Williams (WCH).

Both events held since the last meeting had been extremely successful and, quite apart from the usual congratulations to Officials and helpers for their hard work, required specific congratulations to all teams for their success in continuing to operate under the extreme pressure of numbers at Tyntesfield and to the First Aid team for their skilled handling of two serious injuries at the British Nights. Sally Thomas had thanked Bill Morris at Tyntesfield and will supply him with feedback on the event – reports in BOK News and Controller's comments were suggested. The committee had been very pleased to see Mark Blackstone's collection of comments he had received after the BNC and congratulated him once more on running such a well-received event.

b) **Future.**

The most recent fixture list contains seven summer informals, from May 28th to July 16th, the last of which is a Sprint event. There are also four events which make up a new Saturday League, spanning October 11th 2008 to February 14th 2009. The plan is to provide Yellow, Orange and Green courses and to produce results in a similar way to WNL events, but with logging rather than double printing. The CATI event, on September 7th, is too early to be of use to ASO but will go ahead on this date. Sally Thomas suggested that it would be better if helping BOK members did not run at such events, but were there purely to encourage newcomers, possibly out on courses as well as at Registration. This should perhaps be pointed out in an article for BOK News. There are problems with arrangements for the BOK Champs, with the suggested venue too expensive and no volunteers for planning. It may also be difficult to organise a Klub weekend this year, with many members off to foreign multi-day events.

5. Other Matters

- a) **Publicity.** Jonathan Hurford is planning a double-sided colour sheet for 'Summer Informal' publicity. His suggestion on lending-out compasses to newcomers led to news that there are a few compasses in unclaimed lost property, which could be used in this way. On the question of entry costs for the BOK Trot it was pointed out that entry fees had been agreed at the AGM – and events have to make money in order to sponsor other activities, like publicity and grants to juniors. The committee supported our Juniors in their use of Facebook, but were not keen to take part themselves (apart from Christophe Mutricy who is already a member). The committee was reassured that new members have to be asked to join, making it difficult for undesirables to target Juniors through the site. This is not an official BOK site.

As Alan Honey and his Controller at Purdown are happy to put out controls very early on the day, there seems to be no reason why the Ratrace cannot be linked to our event, provided their competitors are off the scene before our first start – 300 teams of 3 would not fit well with the ASO event.

- b) **Coaching.** Jackie Hallett reported by email as follows:-
'We have had 2 junior training days in the last 2 months – one linked to the SW junior squad at Stock Hill which was very successful. BOK had 8 juniors training with the squad and 2 training with me. We had training at Ashton Court last Saturday which was attended by 11 juniors. A good day despite the weather. The SW junior squad have a training day this Saturday in the New Forest but we only have a couple of takers – a shame when so many went to Stock Hill.'
- c) **Mapping.** Dudley Budden reported that High Meadow would be the next map to be produced, with the BOK Galoppen expected there in November. He showed a spreadsheet summary of all 44 maps owned by BOK, categorised as 'Current', 'Needing Update', 'Obsolete' etc. Only 5 of these areas might be regarded as suitable for major events – Brierley, Gare Hill, Moseley Green, New Beechenhurst and Stourhead. Maps of Coombe Dingle Sports Centre and Yate were being updated and are suitable for Sprint-O.
Dudley informed the meeting that two of our members, Grace and Gareth Davis, had obtained a grant of £5000 to produce orienteering activities in the Thornbury area, funding source unknown. Celia Watkinson and Dudley are to run 'taster' sessions for school children, aimed at 7 to 11 year-olds, in the Yate area.
- d) **Proposals for 2007-8 Club Awards.** Helen Kelsey had prepared a list of all suggestions received, and circulated this before the meeting. After some discussion this year's awards were agreed, with some decisions much easier than others.
- e) **Recommendations for Entry Number Checks.** Philip Fawkner-Corbett had looked into the possibility of printing extra maps in real-time as required, but had become convinced that the expense of providing a sufficiently high quality of both printer and ink would make this unfeasible. It was clear that a robust process for recording numbers on courses was needed so that re-cycling or the equivalent could be introduced in a timely way, with maps taken in at Download so that arrangements could be made to return them if requested.

6. Any Other Business

- Philip reported that Tricia Walker has indicated that she will retire as Squad Coordinator in September which, together with Dudley's retirement as Mapping Officer, represents something of a crisis for the management of the club. He will set up a sub-committee to look into the whole question of volunteer workload within the club and how this can be managed.
- Robin Walker drew the committee's attention to the BOF Events Committee minutes circulated before the meeting, which seemed to indicate that the recommendations of the Events Structure Review were being implemented without direct consultation of BOF members, despite the opposition expressed by this committee and others. He agreed to contact John Shucksmith to ask whether John agrees with this diagnosis and if so has any suggestions as to what might be done to register our disapproval of this high-handed behaviour of our national governing body.
- Sally Thomas will reclaim trophies from last year's winners and implement engraving of this year's names before the dinner.
- Dudley reported on mapping at Three Brooks.

7. Dates of Later Meetings.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as May 22nd.