

Items of interest from Committee Meeting held on January 22nd 2009

1. Matters Arising. .

- **Risk Assessment.** We have been informed that risk assessments are required for all registered activities, including coaching days.
- **New Schools in ASO.** Martin Helfer said that this development was largely due to hard work by John Lewis and Jo Foster. Some schools had begun last season but only registered at the beginning of the new one. Schools come and go but the overall trend is up. The committee was very pleased that this was the case.
- **Printing of Maps On-site.** Following a vote, the committee has now agreed in principle to initiate map-printing on site for local events.
- **ASO Championships.** These will now take place as part of the NGOC event on the Saturday of 0007 weekend.
- **CRB Checking.** Individual applications must be made – can't just phone up for a bunch of forms. Bristol City Council are insisting on two CRB-checked people to be named for events involving young people held on their land.

2. Reports

- a) **Captains.** Helen Kelsey reported that 13 teams had been entered for the British Relays. Entries were still being received. 10 teams had been arranged so far for the JK relays. Geographically, the obvious choice for the first round of the Compass Sport Cup was the Devon event at Buller's Hill and this had been provisionally chosen, with an entry form in the recent BOK News.
- b) **Treasurer.** Mark Dyer reported several major items of recent expenditure – about £900 on equipment, £822 on Headless Hill mapping, £300 on the CSC final (mostly already in hand from the first round) and a final bill of £2023.92 for the new BOK top order, some of which had already been recouped through sales. Fortunately all the recent events – Headless Hill Galoppen, Long-O, Xmas Novelty and two Saturday Leagues – had been profitable, with an overall expectation of about £930. The Wavering Down project was going well and staying within its earmarked budget. The next step, on February 10th, was a course for disadvantaged children, at which it was hoped that the newly-trained Young Leaders would help. Our £5000 reserve has been moved from Nationwide to a Lloyds deposit account and with a balance, outside this and the Wavering Down money, of about £3900 and no major expenditure expected in the near future, the Klub's finances were in reasonable shape, which was just as well, as BOK was scheduled to act as banker for the 0007 weekend. There will be a payment for new colour leaflets soon.
- c) **Secretary.**
 - As pressure on space in BOK News argues against taking paid advertisements, Steve Horton has suggested that we could offer to host ads at the bottom of our web-site home-page.
 - Reminder that BOF funding exists for coach training. The committee was pleased to hear from Celia Watkinson that Grace Davies is keen to progress to coaching Level 2.
 - The SWOA secretary has circulated Katy Dyer's document on Event Safety to all SW clubs. The importance of risk assessment and the production of search and rescue plans will be emphasised to all future BOK Organisers.
- d) **SWOA Rep.** SWOA committee meeting took place on December 3rd 2008. Points of interest:-
 - Discussion of Welsh Orienteering Association request for levies for our Headless Hill event as area mainly in Wales. SWOA committee adamant that levies should follow organising club.
 - Discussion of possible SWOA levy changes – but constitution says must be approved at AGM.
 - Reminder that new Level 2 events require Grade 2 Controller.
 - Isla Simmons selected (1 of 5 from SWJS) to represent English schools at World Schools Champs in Madrid after Easter. Congratulations from BOK committee and note to set aside money for support (estimated cost £600). The treasurer pointed out that in future the club might need to set limits on such support depending on the number of Junior members involved.
- e) **ASO Rep.** Martin reported that 9 new schools had joined ASO this year, but 5 had dropped out. Last year had seen no new schools and a loss of 3. The trend is therefore gratifyingly up, but total numbers are still smaller than a few years ago. Turnouts had been good at BOK events, but smaller at the

NGOC and NWO Galoppens. Participation is always reduced during school holidays. In the matter of the BOF 2009 levies and registration of the ASO component of BOK/ASO events as 'Juniors only', Martin had emailed our request to Susan Marsden, Chair of Junior Competitions Group, on December 4th, but received no response so far. A follow-up in January revealed that she is waiting for a reply from Mike Hamilton. Martin's email provides a very good summary of the ASO case, what had been agreed with senior BOF officials and what we need confirmed in writing:-

As you will be aware, BOF amended the levy structure, with effect from 1 January 2009. Whilst this was intended to ensure financial neutrality, it will have a dramatic adverse impact on Bristol Orienteering Klub (BOK) primarily due to the number of children attending local events: under the new levy structure there is no 'dispensation' for children - their marginal levy could be £2.50 which, together with other costs, will significantly increase entry fees. (Where else are you penalised for being more successful!) BOK have raised this issue with John Shucksmith (SWOA rep) whose response is: "My interpretation is that you do not need to separately register a junior only event, but you do need to convince the Junior Competitions Group that the ASO League events are essentially junior only events". This view was agreed by Mike Hamilton (Chief Executive, BOF) and Peter Guillaume (Fixtures Group Chairman, BOF). The ASOA has just celebrated its 30th anniversary - so it is well established. By definition it is only open to Juniors and last season over 100 juniors competed for their local schools, and ASOA schools provided 6% of the runners at the recent BSOA schools event. Each year ASOA provide a league structure covering eight events, one individual competition and one relay. Each of these events is part of BOK or other local orienteering club events i.e. BOK (or NGOC, NWO, Sarum etc) hold an event, which our children will attend and the results are used to compile the ASOA results. ASOA do not run entire events, although we do aim to provide considerable support to at least two of the BOK events each year (organiser, planner, marshals etc). The inter-club attendance enables the children to experience new terrain and customs (e.g. EMIT as opposed to SI): ASOA has provided several national junior runners, including two who have been selected to run for England at the World Schools Orienteering Champs in 2009 in Madrid.

We would like confirmation that:

- the ASOA events are classified as 'Junior only events' in relation to the levies due*
- as such, all ASO registered runners will incur no BOF levy (this does not include other, non-ASO registered juniors)*
- the events that ASOA attend do not need to be registered separately as ASOA events, although they should be advertised as such*
- this would apply equally to any event identified as one of the ten ASOA events regardless of the host club*

We will provide:

- a regulated framework for the organisation (rules, committee meetings, minutes etc)*
- a full list of competitors at each event, which, if necessary, would be subject to audit*
- encouragement to all children to join the sport*

Martin has spoken to the relevant people at NGOC and suggested that they do not pay BOF levies for their Galoppens until the ASO component has been sorted out. Disqualified ASO members will be added to ASO runners in the results to provide a complete list for levy purposes.

f) Web-site. Steve Horton would like to know if anyone has any ideas for new features on the web-site. The committee once again congratulated Steve on his successful running of the BOK site.

3. Fixtures

a) Held.

23.11.08 Galoppens/ASO Headless Hill; Organiser Katy Dyer, Planners Alice Bedwell and Mark Saunders, Controller Pat Barclay. Despite the large amounts of climb, the courses had universally been greeted as excellent, with many positive comments.

02.12.08 Street-O Clifton; Organiser and Planner Jonathan Hurford. This had been much enjoyed by committee members who had taken part.

13.12.08 Saturday League 2 Leigh Woods; Organiser and Planner Tim Britton. There had been a good turnout for this event, with pre-printed maps all used.

20.12.08 WNL Headless Hill; Organiser and Planner Andy Creber. Nick Ajderian reported that this had been an excellent event, with the steepness of the area still apparent at night but the planner relatively kind in his control positioning.

21.12.08 Christmas Novelty event Three Brooks; Organiser Vicki Hasaballa, assisted by Clare Fletcher, Planner Dudley Budden. Much enjoyed by participants.

10.01.09 Saturday League 3 Blaise Castle; Organiser and Planner Phil Fawkner-Corbett. Phil had had problems with some control positioning for this event and had received useful comments from Tim Britton by email afterwards. Tim is strongly in favour of providing pre-printed maps at the Saturday events and the committee seemed to be generally in agreement, though Martin Helfer argued that marking-up from master maps is a valuable skill, now seldom required. Next season the events will have an overall coordinator, a standard fee of £4, at least two people running each event and a box with equipment, standard entry forms etc, as has been used for the Summer informals.

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

b) Future.

In the near future we have:-

31.01.09 WNL Silkwood; Organiser and Planner Mark Blackstone.

01.02.09 District/ASO League Silkwood; Organiser Stephanie Milne, Planner David Parkin, Controller Alan Honey.

21.02.09 Saturday League 4 Purdown; Organiser and Planner Christophe Mutricy

21.02.09 WNL Purdown; Organiser and Planner Nick Ajderian.

08.03.09 District/ASO League Lyncombe; Organiser Mandy Turner, Planner Mike Turner, Controller the Grenfells.

05.04.09 District/ASO League Stock Hill; Planner Trevor Crowe, other officials to be confirmed.

Four Saturday League events are currently programmed for next season, but more could be arranged.

The dates have been agreed with NCOG to avoid clashes with their events.

c) Event Structure changes, Championship proposals etc.

The committee considered a paper from Mike Forrest on BOK and the Competitions Structure Review. There was no enthusiasm for attempting to run more than two Level 2 events per season. The necessary one-year embargo would in itself be a problem for most areas. On the question of BOK being named as the organising club for the 2009 Harvester Trophy event in South Wales, the committee thought this seemed logical as three BOK members are involved as officers. Mike's other suggestion of BOK offering to manage a Welsh Championships Level 1 event every three years seemed a possibility, provided that we were not expected to give up the BOKtrot in those years. Mike's other paper on the relationships between the various British Championships produced no comments. Robin Walker expressed the opinion that the JK at Easter was sacrosanct and should not be disturbed by other arrangements.

d) Implementation of participant counts (ASO etc) for new levies.

Martin Helfer will deal with the ASO side of this. Division between Seniors and non-ASO Juniors will still be necessary because of the form of the SWOA levy.

4. Other Matters

Before beginning the agenda in this section, the Chairman asked Nick Ajderian to talk about the current state of the Klub's squad system. Nick began by thanking his predecessor as Squad Liaison, Tricia Walker, for her continued support and advice. Membership changes for this year will arrive from our Membership Secretaries soon and be incorporated into the database. A survey reveals that the Klub's top helpers are Anne Donnell and the Dyers, Mark and Katy. New lists will be sent to squad leaders soon, ordered by frequency of helping. The recent BOK News contains a request to members to help more. The Chairman may recruit

someone to wander round the car-park at BOK events soliciting help. Helen felt that we should try to pick out members who come to events but never help. Robin Walker reported Tricia's experience of asking some members directly and being told that if they had to help they would rather not come. Martin reminded us that parents and teachers may have responsibilities which prohibit them from helping on some occasions. Mark Dyer pointed out the social advantages of getting more involved in the Klub's activities.

- a) **Publicity, including Colour Leaflets.** The Chairman reported that the most recent draft of the leaflet, which should have been the final one, was once more being rewritten in order to be compatible with the new BOF Events Structure. Once this rewrite was complete the leaflet will be proof-read and a print order made. The committee felt that an initial print order of 3000 copies would be sufficient.
 - b) **Coaching, including Talent Squad application.** Laurence Gossage has produced a summary of funding opportunities which will be circulated to the committee by email. It was apparent that BOF was the prime source of funds for the training of new coaches. Phil Fawner-Corbett has some ideas about recruiting a BOK member to find the next generation of coaches. The committee greeted with enthusiasm Jackie Hallett's news, reported in an email, that Mark Bown is interested in training as a coach. Mark Dyer expressed the opinion that the club should somehow attempt to ensure that newly-trained coaches would commit themselves to working for BOK for some fixed period, but the general feeling was that volunteers were sufficiently rare that we had to support any appropriate person who put themselves forward. The committee was unanimously keen to support a suggested application by Jackie and Jim Hayward for BOK to start up a BOF Talent Squad.
 - c) **Improved Junior involvement.** The Chairman had asked Ben Maliphant for his opinions on how the club might improve its treatment of Juniors and had circulated Ben's resulting email to the committee. A long discussion provided the committee with much food for thought. Phil will reply to Ben and thank him for his contribution.
 - d) **Mapping.** Trevor Crowe, our new Mapping Officer, had sent the committee, by email before the meeting, a detailed report on the current situation of all the Klub's mapped areas. The central spreadsheet had areas grouped into three blocks, with the first containing areas which have events planned for them, sorted in date order, the second areas which do not appear on the current fixture list but have had events held recently, and the third areas which have not been used in the recent past. The Chairman welcomed this very useful summary. Trevor mentioned the difficulty and time-consuming nature of keeping BOK's maps up to date and the immense contribution that Dudley Budden has made in recent years. It was essential that the Klub should attempt to recruit a new generation of mappers. Perhaps a Mapping Squad might be needed? Phil mentioned that the committee is keen to set up a mapping budget for future years. Trevor cited the mapping agreement for the Wavering Down project as an example of what should be done in mapping new areas, with the mapper's responsibilities and payment clearly stated. Currently most updates are being done on an expenses-only basis. With regard to current mapping needs Trevor offered to do the Greyfield Woods update himself – it will be less challenging than his current work on Stock Hill. He mentioned that it was very useful to get comments from competitors on where there might be problems in a current map.
 - e) **Proposals for 2008-2009 BOK awards.** A list of proposed award recipients must be agreed at the next meeting, so suggestions are required from all committee members well before this date so that our Captains can prepare a formal proposal to be discussed at the meeting.
- 5. Any Other Business.**
- **The Secretary** had reminded members before the meeting began that the year 2011 will mark BOK's 40th anniversary. Advance planning required?
 - **The Treasurer** asked for the committee's permission to write off the 8-year-old computing equipment lost from Croeso 2008. In view of its age this seemed appropriate.
- 6. Dates of Later Meetings.** The date of the next meeting was agreed as March 19th.