

Items of interest from Committee Meeting held on May 14th 2009

1. Matters Arising.

- **CONDES course.** Christophe Mutricy had attended the Planners' course as an experienced CONDES user. Five prospective Planners had been present and the course had seemed to go well.
- **CRB Checking.** Mark and Katy Dyer are in process of completing their CRB checks through BOF. Contrary to what was previously understood, a block of names can be submitted together in order to obtain the necessary forms. Katy will begin the process for the remaining members of the First Aid squad.
- **Trophies for Klub Champs.** Clare Fletcher has obtained lapel badges for the next three years. .

2. Reports

- a) **Captains.** Helen Kelsey said that there was little to say here as reports have already been written for Newsletter and website. Briefly, 14 BOK teams had taken part in the JK Relays, with one podium position. Teams for the Harvester Relays are being sought, with a notice on the website. The Klub weekend was planned for June 26th to 28th, joining SBOC events on all three days, Friday evening to Sunday, if problems with the Saturday event are resolved. There will be an item in BOK News.
- b) **Treasurer.** Mark Dyer reported that the ASO event, at Stock Hill, had been financially successful with an income of £750 and expenses of about £400. There appeared to be a trend of officials not asking for their expenses. He has emailed reminders. Sales of BOK tops were starting to recoup our investment, with £337 coming in recently. £180 had been paid to Isla Simmons as BOK's contribution to her World Schools expenses and an advance payment had been made to the Hilton Hotel for the dinner, though most of this will be paid back by members. News of the 0007 finances was good, because there had been a significantly greater entry than we had budgeted for, with about 900 on day 1 and 1200 on day 2, after inclusion of entry-on-the-day. It appears that NGOC will make a substantial profit on day 1, and our situation for day 2 will be well beyond the projected break-even point, with a likely profit of over £1000. Day 3 should avoid an anticipated loss and make a small profit on its £1400 income. A major factor for day 2 had been a smaller offset-litho bill than first estimates had suggested - £850 rather than more than £2000, but still boosting the total map cost to about £1500. The club's bank balance is very healthy at present, but significant payments will be made soon. In answer to questions about the necessity of using offset-litho printing for high-profile events like 0007 Day 2, Mark reported that Mike Forrest will be raising the issue with Map Group and Colin Spears (Chair of Map Group) will be requesting a cost-breakdown from the printers. Mark had been able to detect no difference between laser and offset-litho printed copies of the same New Beechenhurst maps provided for Map Group prior to the event.
- c) **Secretary.**
- Celia Watkinson had raised the possibility of volunteer helpers from our local Universities and Katy Dyer had followed this up with a view to easing the helper burden on 0007 Day 2, but nothing had resulted from this. Mark thought that transport had been a problem.
 - An offer had come via Celia for the club to have a publicity stand at the Rat Race assembly area for a cost of £200. This had been declined as not cost effective.
 - Dudley Budden had forwarded an email reporting that checks were being made on clubs' commitment to CASC requirements. It was thought that BOK stood up fairly well to this.
 - The SWOA secretary had forwarded a request from Gavin Clegg to make the WSX Sprint race at the University of Bournemouth on September 5th the SW Sprint Championships. No significant objections had been received and this is now the case.
 - Information had been received on local Child Safe seminars. Robin Walker asked whether attendance at such seminars was required for CRB clearance. Mark Dyer said that he thought not, but the seminars could be quite instructive.
 - A physiotherapy firm called Physiobench had sent a link to their article on ticks and Lyme disease, requesting a mention if we used it. The committee felt that a link to the article from the BOK website would be desirable and will be arranged.
 - The Forest Stewardship Council will be running an activity day on Friday September 25th and would like to know if any orienteering events might be linked to this, either on the Friday or through the

weekend. We have a Long-O on our Fixture List for Sunday September 27th, in the Forest of Dean. Mark said that at last year's Long-O there had been as many CATI entrants as Long-O runners and if a CATI component was planned this year it might well link sensibly to any FSC events on the Friday. However at present we have no officials for the Long-O. Once officials are found the CATI link might be considered, but there might well be rather fewer such entrants in the F of D compared to a location close to Bristol, like Ashton Court, where last year's Long-O was held.

- Celia had received a request via the club website for advice on a possible team-building activity on the Ashton Court POC, involving 100 probably inexperienced people. She was inclined to advise that for such a large group land access would need to be checked with Bristol City Council and a risk assessment completed, but asked for the committee's views. There was general agreement that her reaction was the correct one.
 - Steve Horton has reported his intention to retire from the position of club Webmaster as soon as is possible. He is prepared to stay on until the new season begins in September if necessary and would help adapt the website to a new format allowing generation of content by those who are less computer-literate, thus easing pressure on the webmaster. The Secretary will thank Steve on the committee's behalf for his sterling work and ask him if he has any suggestions as to who might be his successor.
- d) **SWOA Rep.** SWOA committee meeting took place on April 1st. A few points to be noted:-
- Scale of SWOA grants for attendance at future coaching courses proposed and agreed. Presumably BOK will match this.
 - Local Yvette Baker round will be at the QO Galoppen on October 25th. QO say that they will have their new punching system in action by then.
 - The SW Club Development Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn, Taunton, on November 28th.
- e) **ASO Rep.** Martin Helfer reported by email as follows:-
- “The individual Championships were held on Day 1 of 0007. Just over 50 juniors competed in their appropriate age classes on the colour coded courses, and had a good time in the sunshine. Our thanks go to NGOC for hosting and all the BOK volunteers who were part of this. We are looking forward to the last league event of 2008/2009 at Greyfield on 7th June and the relays (and presentations) on 5th July.”
- f) **Web-site.** Steve Horton reported a new single day record of 1242 visits on May 4th, the Tuesday following 0007 weekend.

3. Fixtures

a) Held.

05.04.09 District/ASO League Stock Hill; Organiser Nick Ajderian, Planner Trevor Crowe, Controller Phil Warry. Good event, nice sunny day, tricky courses. Mark Dyer suggested that Trevor should be complimented on a much improved map.

03.05.09 0007 National Event and Mike Nelson BOKtrot, New Beechenhurst; Overall Coordinator Dave Urch, Organiser Howard Thomas, Planners Mark and Katy Dyer, Controller Roger Hargreaves (Kerno). Huge congratulations were due to Dave Urch and the Organisers and Planners for an extremely successful event. The courses had been very well received, with a highly complimentary email received from Oli Johnson on behalf of the elites, saying that they seldom had the benefit of such long and consistently demanding courses in this country. The car park and assembly area had worked superbly, with very good vibrations throughout the weekend. Minor problems with the Red Start and a drinks station position had been successfully overcome. Thanks were due to Katy Dyer and Dudley Budden for their additional help after Mark's injury. Current opinion amongst those on whom most of the load had fallen was that we should not do this again, but Mark felt that, as a big club, we should not opt out of big events. It was important for club members to get experience at the highest levels. Overall 0007 had been a terrific weekend. Sally Thomas said that, for such big events, location of equipment was a continuing problem. Robin Walker mentioned that Tricia wanted to know whether the committee believed that the Equipment List on the web was useful, and worth maintaining. The committee was unanimous that the list was very worthwhile, at least telling one what the club owned, even if it was not always where it should be.

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

successful events.

b) Future.

Next event was the first Summer Informal at Leigh Woods. Christophe said that the Informals were now all up and running. Sally reminded the committee that final permissions from Bristol City Council could only be obtained after completion of risk assessments. Financial viability was a little questionable this year, as BCC were asking £42 per event, a large amount if turnout was low, as it normally is if the weather is bad.

30.05.09 Sprint O, Rodway Common is cancelled – problem with permissions. The Sprint-O coordinator, Tim Britton, is not disheartened – he is convinced that the Warmley event on June 13th will be the forerunner of a successful programme next year.

07.06.09 ASO League, Greyfield Wood. An all-controls map has been sent to the Woodland Trust and we await final permission.

20.06.09 Harvester Relays. The management team is very confident that all goes well. The First Aid team is not required – a local doctor is on call. Financially, Mike Forrest has said that BOF will cover any loss.

05.07.09 Adams/Avery Relays, Bushey Norwood. Problems with livestock in fields must be resolved.

18.07.09 Klub Champs, Stock Hill. QO will join us for their club champs, theirs a score event, ours conventional colour-coded.

27.09.09 Forest of Dean Long-O. No officials yet.

2009/2010 Saturday League. Coordinator needed.

Clare asked for guidance on what future high-profile events in the SW the club should bid for and it was decided that we should ask to run the Southern Championships in 2013.

4. Other Matters

- a) Publicity, including Colour Leaflets.** Jonathan Hurford's email said 'Nothing to report'. Leaflet order awaited now that a draft has been finalised. A final account must be agreed with Paul Johnson. Publicity postcards for the Summer Informals may be produced using the BOF pro forma on the website.
- b) Coaching.** No report from Jackie. Helen thought that things were quiet at present. It is understood that Matt Franklin is about to become a Level 1 coach. Mark reported that Katy has obtained a Level 1 qualification since the last meeting.
- c) Mapping.** Trevor Crowe had sent the committee a report on work done since the last meeting and an updated version of his 'BOK Mapping' spreadsheet. Since the March meeting a New Beechenhurst update had been completed by Dudley, and a Greyfield Wood update had been made by Trevor and Clare. The new map of Wavering Down had almost been completed by Dudley. The following OCAD maps will be worked on later this year :- Ashton Court (POC still using pre-Oct 2008 version), Victoria Park, Durdham Downs, Sidcot School, Yoxter and Worlebury Woods. Trevor's beginners' guide to CONDES is almost complete and drafts have been sent to current planners. Sally mentioned that Dudley is also doing some extra bits on the Bushey Norwood map. Mark reported that, apart from Headless Hill and the tendered costs for Wavering Down, all mapping this year had been done on an expenses-only basis.
- d) Communications with BOF.** The Secretary had circulated an email from BOF before the meeting with subject 'Communications between British Orienteering and Clubs'. This set out proposals on membership returns, lists of renewals, financial statements and so on. Jenny and Mark Selley, our membership secretaries, have had problems with BOF information this year and welcomed the proposals, which would be helpful to them. Information has already been returned to BOF on current holders of various posts within the club – Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Welfare Officer and Publicity Officer.
- e) Date and Venue for AGM.** Robin reported that Tricia Walker is happy to organise the AGM if we use the same format as last year at the Ring o' Bells in Nailsea. As last year's AGM had been well-attended the committee was happy to take advantage of this offer. Very few dates were suitable but the week of September 22nd to 25th will be investigated [*Post meeting: September 23rd chosen*].
- f) Improved links with Leisure Centres.** Celia had been approached by Peter Eastwood, Partnership Manager of the South Gloucestershire Leisure Trust, as the representative of a sports NGB (in this case

BOF) with a view to improving links between the sport and the South Glos leisure centres. She felt that his proposal of a 90 minute meeting was not worthwhile but would be happy to arrange a shorter meeting if this was thought to be useful. The committee was not clear how the club might take advantage of the links suggested, but as Dudley had pointed out that each of the South Glos Leisure Centres was quite close to a mapped area it seemed possible that one of the centres might be a suitable location for Jim Hayward and Jackie Hallett's Improving Participation/Talent Squad initiative.

5. Any Other Business.

- **Mark Dyer** introduced a discussion of the BOK Participation/Talent initiative. Celia has looked at venues and selected Red Maids School, which will cost £46 for the hall each week for ten weeks, with a contract required soon to obtain the booking. However it seems that we must commit to the expenditure before we know that we will get the necessary grant. Mark feels that a proper business plan is needed before the club commits itself financially. It would be desirable to have direct committee involvement.
 - **Mark (for Katy Dyer)** reported on developments in the Wavering Down project. The map is nearing completion. A Schools Orienteering Day will be held in July at Hill Farm, with our Young Leaders involved. There will be 40 places for 'hard-to-reach' children. It will be run by the North Somerset Schools Partnership Officer, John Suik. Katy also plans to lead an 'introduction to orienteering' morning at St. Joseph's Primary School, in Portishead, also in July. Again the BOK Young Leaders will be involved.
 - **Phil Fawkner-Corbett** referred to Nick Ajderian's Squad Liaison report, in which Katy and Anne Donnell are joint most-frequent helpers at BOK events. Nick has offered to help Richard Cronin with the Universities Championships next year. Phil also mentioned that, at his request, Alan Honey has taken a look at the feasibility of printing maps at events and produced a detailed report, which will be circulated to the committee by email for discussion at the next meeting. Finally he reported that he has asked a senior member of the club to become a roaming 'meeter and greeter' of new club members at events, as a way of improving the social aspects of the club. No decision yet.
- 6. Dates of Later Meetings.** The date of the next meeting was agreed as July 2nd.