

SOUTHERN NAVIGATORS ORIENTEERING CLUB

Minutes of the AGM 20th September 2023

7.30pm

Present:

Committee: Steve McKinley (Chair), Helen Le Page (Secretary), Steve Peacock (Treasurer), Paul Fox (Team Captain), Debbie Robinson (Events Secretary) Ian Komor (Welfare Officer), Mel Slade (Development Officer)

Co-opted posts: Gill Sharp (Members Secretary) Lucy Paton (Snaggers Editor),

Members: Ross Maclagan, Alan Wallis, Trish Wallis, Chris Bradshaw, Colin Swallow, Jon Darley, Frank Edge, Mark Howell, Thomas Howell, Paul Wallace-Stock, Cameron Lamond, Sarah Francis, John Kelly, Richard Barrett, Pete Daplyn

Apologies: Helen Ashenden, Chris Ashenden, Paul Martin, Simon Dunkley, Adrian Wise, Pete Jones, Tony Painter, Dave Lane, Katie Clarke, Steve Bailey, Craig Ogilvie, Carol Lovegrove, Alistair Lovegrove, Mike Bray, Jenny Bray, Dave Chapman, Laurence Townley, Sue Bett,

1). Chairman's welcome

Steve welcomed everyone to the 59th annual gathering of SN.

2). Minutes of the 2022 AGM

Approved as a true record by general assent.

3). Officers' reports

a). Chairman's report – Steve McKinley

Much of what is talked about in today's AGM reflects what has already in some form been communicated to the membership via one of the mediums of SNaggers, the website, WhatsApp or Facebook. We are extremely fortunate that for many years now, we have the club magazine edited by some brilliant volunteers and contributed by the members. Lucy continues to produce an extremely high-quality product that is the envy of many clubs and a primary mode of getting information to its readers. Coupled with the website and the ever-growing club WhatsApp group, which now numbers nearly half the membership, the committee strive to ensure all members are kept well informed on what's going on in the club. Because this is your club.

I think it is fair to say that the committee has been weaker this year by myself having to try and fill two roles, and this has been compounded by the day-to-day pressures of “real” work on some of the committee, as such, some of the ideas and facilities we would have like to do have fallen by the wayside.

Having said that. The committee did meet 8 times since the last AGM, this comprised of 6 standard committee meetings and two additional strategy meetings. Following feedback from last year’s AGM and the focus on the current financial position of the club the first meeting looked at establishing the budgets for equipment, event pricing policy and relay subsidy for 2022-23; How can we best use the club finances to give the most focus to orienteering and SN; How can we encourage talent in the club at all levels through sponsorship and how do we ensure that volunteers are not out of pocket and rewarded for supporting SN. One of the results of the meeting is a new Expenses and Grants Policy that is posted on our website and this year nearly 30% of the surplus generated from all the Saturday series has gone back into supporting our selected juniors as they travel around the world at orienteering events.

The second strategy meeting focused on SN’s involvement in the club’s support of the National Orienteering calendar. As a strong, respected club bordering both SC and SE regions it is important that we understand what SN can offer BOF when they need hosts for British championships, JKs and the like, and how these fit into the local diary of events that support all our own membership. A detailed list can be found on the website minutes pages.

Despite having to call upon the good will of the membership again we have achieved several things we should be proud of some of which will be touched on by the other committee members, but I would like to highlight just a few others here.

1. Post race coaching/discussion sessions managed by Carol offering members a chance to reflect and a cathartic zoom platform to discuss their routes was pioneered and well received this year.

2. A series of summer evening coaching sessions offered by Katherine Bett as part of her pathway to next level coaching that benefitted our own members who came along.

3. The Track-2-Terrain initiative that was modelled on the parkrun paradigm of using the same place, at the same time, with the same format for 3 weeks to try and provide a safe, environment for new commers to attend and experience orienteering for the

first time. A special thank-you to Paul, Debbie, and Helen in supporting this. We did get about 10 first timers, at least one of whom I know has signed up for our first Saturday series event this year.

4. Following the successful Southern Champs in November 2018 at Hindhead, SN were approached directly by the Black Down & Hindhead Supporters of the National Trust. A group that has an extremely good working relationship with the NT and have requested that we support them in holding an O event on Hindhead in Feb 2024. This is testament to the professionalism and enthusiasm they observed when dealing with the club.

5. In April we were approached by a representative of the charity Pathfinders Camp. The charity's mission is to bring camping opportunities and the outdoors to those who through their disability would normally find it difficult. There is a location called Woodlarks just south of Farnham town centre adjacent to Bourne Woods that offers an amazing opportunity for people of every kind of disability to experience the outdoors in a safe environment. During the summer, SN have created a brand-new orienteering map for them covering their woodland and generated two candidate Permanent Orienteering Courses, one of which is suitable for those confined to a wheelchair. SN have fully funded this work and the charity have been overwhelmed by the club's support.

So, although the club currently does not have a formal development plan, we have continued to provide a full range of high-quality orienteering events, support our local schools with free mapping and bring orienteering to new parts of our communities and strive to keep to the objectives of the club's constitution in encouraging the sport of orienteering for all.

So finally, there is one person who isn't here tonight who would normally be at most AGMs. A great supporter of the club and someone who was always looking to ask me tricky controller questions because he never wanted to stop learning, helping, and understanding. A friend and long-time club member. We were all knocked sideways by Brian Pilling's sudden death at Southwood in October last year. In October this year we will be returning to Southwood for our second Saturday series event and the committee have decided that all surplus from this event will be donated in Brian's name to the Airborne Gunner Trust, his nominated charity. I hope, many of the club will support.

b). Treasurers' report – Steve Peacock

The surplus for the year rose as a result of a successful events programme with notable contributions arising from the SN Trophy, Wellington College and 2 x Urban events. The Saturday series also generated a surplus as a result of improved attendance levels.

Expenditure in the year was again below the long-term average for major items such as new maps and equipment replacement etc. The club has continued to provide members with discounted kit, sponsorship for juniors to attend camps/training, junior activities, and relay team entries.

The committee have decided to discontinue the payment of insurance for club kit so any losses would now have to be covered by club funds. Reserves at end of year remain higher than the long-term target level and there are no immediate concerns regarding the club's finances.

It was felt that due to our financial position that Membership fees do not need to rise at this time.

Jen Daplyn as auditor, has recommended that as a non-profit organisation we need to reduce our reserves.

The Chair would like to thank the Treasurer for the accounts, Paul Fox for formatting them and Jen Daplyn for auditing them.

(See slides on website for full break down.)

- It was asked whether we should be looking into an account with a higher interest rate – Steve Peacock explained that at this is very difficult due to the nature of the account needed.
- It was asked whether we should be offering family or young person membership. We already offer family membership but are not yet aware whether we can offer young person membership. In light of BOF's recent AGM decisions we might also have to offer a discounted part year membership. To be reviewed by the new committee to come in line with BOF.
- It was asked why we don't offer rolling membership – Paul Fox explained why and the complications of doing this.
- Clarity was requested on the SN reserves policy - Our policy has been reviewed and a document drafted. This will be reviewed by the committee.

c). Events Secretary - Debbie Robinson

Debbie thanked all those involved in running, planning and organising recent events.

BOF levies will go up this year, but SN will absorb the cost for schools' events. Levies for non-members will be more expensive than for members.

Helpers at Saturday Series events now get free entry, through Racesignup.

We had 4 new planners last season and 3 more this season, including some juniors. Planners and organisers to get a special "Thank you" gift. Last year it was an exclusive SN T-Shirt!

The SN Christmas Dinner will be on Wednesday 13th Dec at The Ely

Superstars-36 adults and 10 juniors enjoyed the fun, games and BBQ organised by Ross, Jon, Iain, Paul W-S and Pete. Thanks also to the helpers on the night. The junior trophies were re-named in Brians memory as he was one of the founder members of the event.

On the back of a conversation regarding EOD, the committee reiterated that EOD is available until the last run time subject to map availability. We will never turn a runner away if they don't have access to a device to sign up with/no internet connection. In the past we have recycled maps to accommodate EOD's.

d). Team Captains report - Paul Fox

SN Entry Fee Subsidy policy was updated in 2022 as the previous policy had become unaffordable.

Team subsidies apply to entry fees only, not for associated travel and subsistence.

Over 75 members benefitted from one or more subsidised runs. The total entry fee subsidies for the year were in excess of £1,300.

Notable team successes included victory in the Senior Women class at JK Relays and an emphatic qualification for the 2023 Compass Sport Cup final.

See slides on website for full breakdown.

e). Mapping Report - Steve McKinley

Several maps including Long Valley South, Frensham Heights, Puttenham Golf Club, Woodlarks, Cove Brook and Wellington College have been updated.

Mytchett and Congo Stream are works in progress.

Steve has proposed that a professional map of Ash Ranges be made with the proposal that we apply for the SNT next year to become a world ranking event– this would cost approximately £6,000 but would be a good investment.

f). Membership Secretary - Gill Sharp

Total members 210-down by 1 from last year

17 non renewals, 16 new members

BOF renewal rate 92% (176 out of 192)

4). Election of Officers

The other elected committee members: Chair: Steve McKinley, Secretary: Helen Le Page, Events secretary: Debbie Robinson, Treasurer: Steve Peacock, Team Captain: Paul Fox, Mapping Officer: Steve McKinley, Development Officer: Vacant

All proposed by Sarah Francis and seconded by Ian Komor

All posts were elected unanimously.

Development Officer – Mel Slade has stepped down, but we are hoping she will continue her fantastic effort in co-ordinating the juniors into teams for Junior specific events.

Training officer- Laurence Townley has stepped down. Steve raised a vote of thanks to Laurence for all he has done.

Co-opted posts: We have vacancies for a Development Officer and a Training Officer. If anyone would like to fill these roles, please contact Steve McKinley.

The committee would like to welcome:

Mike Le Marie-Equipment officer

Ross MacLagan-Committee Member

5). Proposals/Constitution amendments

None submitted.

6). Any Other Business

- Website, especially events page in Dyslexia friendly text-This can be looked into.
- POC officer. Wellesley and Southwood. Permissions gained with financial backing and councils onboard. SCOA also has funds which could be applied for. Paul Wallace-Stock showed an interest in creating a POC for Southwood and will take up the conversation with Steve McKinley at a later date.
- Development plan – need some help to pull a plan together, to help use finances wisely and keep the club moving in the right direction. If anyone feels they could assist in this, please contact Steve McKinley.
- It was asked about the latest MOD charges and whether we should be using more MOD land? At £6.00 per person (inc. Children) £1.50 per car, then all the licence fees etc. it is still very expensive. SS events just aren't big enough for these areas; hence we try to use schools/parks/council land.

It was pointed out that private landowners are also changing around £6, but don't charge the licence fees so still cheaper.

We make donations in the region of £1 per person to use areas such as Hogmoor. Having direct contacts with landowners and building good relationships can open up access to land that can be difficult.

Ross thanked the committee for their work over the past year.

Steve closed the meeting at 9pm and pizza was enjoyed by all.

Helen Le Page

SN Secretary

20th September 2023