

SOUTHERN NAVIGATORS Orienteering Club

MINUTES of AGM 2017–Wednesday 20th September 2017 held at West End Sports Pavilion, Benner Lane, West End, Woking, GU24 9JP

Present:

COMMITTEE: Alan Wallis (Chair), Tony Painter (Sec), Sue Bett (Events), Sarah Francis (Treasurer), Paul Fox (Team Captain), Ian Komor (Mapping),

Co-opted posts: Gill Sharp (Membership Sec), Dave Lane (Junior League Coord.), Jane Archer (Events Sec Asst.), Calvin Manning (Equipment), Mel Slade (Welfare), Laurence Townley (Training), Steve Peacock (Permanent Courses), Lucy Paton (SNaggers editor).

Members: Pete Jones, Trish Wallis, Jon Paton, Helen Le Page, Hannah Gray, Paul Emmerson, Paul Martin, Brian Pilling, Ross Maclagan

Apologies: Mark Howell, Linda Cairns, Carol Lovegrove, Steve McKinley, John Brown, Dave Chapman, Colin Swallow, Adrian Wise, Cameron Lamont.

1. Chairman's welcome

Alan welcomed members to the 53rd gathering of SN, highlighting items for later discussion.

2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM

Approved as a true record

Proposed – Ross Maclagan Seconded – Brian Pilling

Actions from 2016 AGM:

- Para 3.4. BO policy statements (notably wrt Safety) were presented to the meeting and received general assent, in principle, for subsequent ratification at AGM 2017.
- Para 14.1. Regional Affiliation: SE vs SC. The new committee to discuss options and make a proposal to the membership.
- Para 14.2. Issues with land permission: The incoming committee to urgently develop a strategy for using Landmarc controlled areas.

Alan stated that these would be covered later in the meeting.

3. Officers' Reports

a. Chair Alan Wallis

Alan reported on a busy year, pointing out that key topics would be revisited later in the meeting. In summary, use of MoD land was still an issue - a reduced charge for Frith Hill (2016) had been agreed, but future use was still likely to be £5.50 per person per day. The event programme had been expanded to cover more of the calendar year. Windmill Hill would be used as the venue for JK 2019 Middle Race.

The club now had a new website and was using social media to a greater degree. There was a need to develop a different approach to landowner contacts. The Safety Workshop would enable more members to be qualified to plan and organise events. The club was concerned to

attract and retain newcomers, email addresses were being captured. Alan highlighted the pressing need to attract volunteers to organise and run events.

Ross queried email distribution. Alan responded that a test system was being run, but no email system would be completely reliable, especially if emails were sent many to many. Commercial computer security and SPAM protection systems may block messages. In future, the aim was that the website would be the primary interactive link with members.

b. Secretary Tony Painter

Tony outlined the make-up of the Committee and co-opted posts and summarised the Secretary's duties. Within year the Christmas Dinner and prize giving was again well supported. A successful Safety Workshop had been held. The next annual dinner was scheduled for Pine Ridge on Wednesday 13th Dec 2016.

c. Events Sec Sue Bett

Sue reported a challenging year, with the need to reprogramme events. The majority of 2016/17 had to be rescheduled following increased fees for military areas, thanks to SLOW for use of Esher Common. Other highlights were the SN Trophy on LVN and the Farnborough Urban. Forthcoming events included the S Champs and prospective Night events. Permission has now been granted by National Trust and Natural England for Southern Champs 2018 on Hindhead/Devils Punchbowl

The problems with MoD meant that the club was looking more widely at alternative venues. She again stressed the need for volunteer organisers. The Superstars competition had again been successful and Ross was thanked for his efforts.

d. Treasurer Sarah Francis (see Annex A)

Sarah reported a healthy financial year, despite MoD issues. Most events made a profit and the loss on Frith Hill had been minimised. Other significant costs in year were the upgrading of SI units and website design. The London Marathon again generated £1500. Trends observed were decrease in JL profits, largely due to land fees. The small overall profit in year was seen as satisfactory.

Questions raised highlighted the effect on profits by cost of SI units and website. An investment against future SI costs is normally budgeted for in each event. Sue Bett commented that future budgeting should take into account the developments in electronic timing, including contactless functionality and batteries were proving unreliable. Mel Slade added that the club should be looking at mapping costs for new areas. Pete Jones suggested possible new areas as Ascot Racecourse and Odiham Common. Ross added that Wellington College was due for revision. Other Urban areas could also be added. Several members highlighted the need for inter club coordination of mapping; there were instances of other clubs mapping or remapping SN territory.

Brian Pilling reminded Planners that insurance criteria could be negated if, for example, controls were put out on the day prior to the event. It is wise to check the terms and conditions.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Pete Jones and seconded by Trish Wallis. The accounts were approved unanimously.

e. Team Captain Paul Fox

Paul reported a successful year, bearing in mind that 2016 had been exceptional. There were successes in JK Relays, with 13 teams and 1st in Mini Relay (M/W12-). SN had qualified for the final of the Compass Sport Cup 2017 in October 2017.

13 teams had been entered in JK Relays, with several strong placings and there was success in the British Relays (10 teams) with 1st M60+ - title retained after a storming final leg and 2nd W Open. There were 4 other top 5 placings.

The Harvester and SE Relays were not entered due to pressure of other events and distance. The Yvette Baker Trophy was not contested by SN. A total of just over £700 was spent in subsidising runners.

It was noted that successes were due to Paul for his continued enthusiasm, organisation and motivation.

f. Membership Gill Sharp

Gill reported a healthy membership of 248, with a slight decline from 2016, but a 15% improvement on 2010 and a 85% renewal rate. Family membership was a feature of the club. It was commented that late year membership would be reimbursed. Reasons for joining SN were seen as a range of factors, including military links, family connections and schools with recruitment being largely by personal contact. The apparent small number of BO only juniors was explained by the need to be BO members for the British Champs and family membership included many juniors. It was acknowledged that the recruitment of juniors is important to the club.

g. Mapping Officer Ian Komor

11 updated maps and 2 new maps produced since August 2016. New and updated maps in year included Frith Hill, Horsell, Frensham Heights, Frimley Streets, Long Valley Nth, Henley Gate, Deepcut, Camberley, Woking Park, Farnborough. Steve McKinley was thanked for his support.

It was noted that other maps have also been created, ie Lord Wandsworth College and needed to be uploaded onto the DB. The above comment on mapping coordination with other clubs was re-emphasised, notably for Horsell. Alan suggested that there needed to be clear boundaries of prime responsibility for mapping and ownership. The danger otherwise might be that club areas would become fragmented and lose identity.

4. Motion

The following Motion was put to the meeting to comply with BO requirements:

"To renumber existing paragraphs 13 to 14, and 14 to 15, and to insert a new paragraph 13 reading:

"The Club agrees to adopt the up-to-date British Orienteering Policies and Procedures in relation to Safeguarding Children and at-risk Adults, as published on the British Orienteering website ("the Policies"). All individuals involved in orienteering through the Club, in any capacity, are deemed to have assented to, and are required to abide by and adhere to, the Policies. The Club and its members agree to abide by the final outcome of any disciplinary and appeal proceedings arising out of the Policies."

Proposed: Alan Wallis Seconded: Tony Painter

Calvin queried the need in BO policy for CRB checks. Sue clarified by commenting that under the guidelines, this was only required if there was "regular" contact (ie more than once a month). The club Welfare Officer will be the focus in ensuring that this policy is applied.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The committee was prepared to restand. A proposal to reelect the committee en bloc was proposed by Pete Jones and seconded by Mel Slade and endorsed unanimously.

There is a continuing vacancy for a Development Officer. The job description is on the website and was the subject of a SNaggers article by Alan. It involves encouragement of Junior membership, promotion through social media and mentoring. At present these functions are spread around the club, but a formal posting will be needed to maintain Clubmark.

5. Membership fees

There was a brief discussion of membership fees. It was recognised that it was acceptable to invest more in members than expect equivalent revenue from them and It was proposed that there should be no change to membership fees.

Prop. Paul Martin Sec. Paul Fox Approved unanimously

6. Any other Business

a. Brian Pilling thanked the Committee for its hard work throughout the year. This was endorsed by the floor.

b. Calvin and others commented on the need to attract and retain juniors. This was endorsed.

c. Landowner contacts

Alan proposed a matrix of Points of Contact for the range of club land areas (see Annex B). This would enable personal contacts to be established and maintained and relieve Sue and Jane of the burden of multiple contacts.

A number of volunteers responded:

Calvin – Wisley/Whitmoor

Ross - Schools and Colleges

Jane – MoD

Sarah – Horsell and Frimley FA

Steve Peacock – Hindhead/Punchbowl/Witley/Frensham

Tony P. – Frimley Lodge Park

d. Event Mix

Alan noted that most SN events are on Saturdays, so major events such as CSC or YB heats are supported.

Courses could be expanded to include White and longer more demanding courses.

Most events are Level D, so do not contribute to rankings. proposed Mostly on Saturday – so we rarely host Compass Sport Cup or Yvette Baker Trophy heats. Should we upgrade some Saturday events, add courses and include more Sunday events?

The ideas were generally endorsed; it was therefore proposed to upgrade some Saturday events to Level C. This will also improve links with SCOA. Some Saturday series could also be moved to Sunday. It was agreed that these modifications should be tried.

e. Use of MoD land

Alan presented a detailed breakdown of the costs of using MoD land and the pros and cons of using these areas, based on assumptions of the numbers of competitors and the need to make a profit. There was a consensus that MoD land was not cost-effective for lower level events (ie Level D). For higher level events an Adult entry fee of £10 was acceptable.

It was agreed that the club would, wherever possible, use alternatives to MoD land.

f. Constitution.

Ross volunteered to review the Constitution which has remained unchanged for many years.

g. Regional Affiliation (SCOA/SEOA)

Alan presented a detailed breakdown of the pros and cons of affiliations. It was acknowledged that the links with both regional groups were much improved now that regular contact and meeting attendance [largely by Alan] was in place. The main issue with SCOA seemed to be their method for collecting affiliation fees.

Brian Pilling asked where Regional affiliation fees go? Alan explained that these go towards Juniors and national representation. Among other arguments it was noted that split affiliations may disqualify some individuals from regional competitions, but that members' affiliation choice was often arbitrary and based on small apparent savings to members, but not to the club.

A lengthy debate concluded that there were no compelling arguments for change, but the club should keep this as a live item for review. Action: The club should monitor the regional affiliations, maintain influence through meetings and recommend changes as seen necessary.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

Tony Painter

Sec SN

21 Sept 2017

Annex A: Accounts

Annex B: Landowner Contact Groups