



Berkshire Orienteers

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

8.00 pm, 29th November 2012
3 Kelburne Close, Winnersh,
RG41 5JG

Present: Peter Entwistle (Treasurer), Ian Hudson, David Jukes (Secretary), Andy Parry (Fixtures), Ken Ricketts, and Katy Stubbs (Chairman).

Apologies: Dave Rogers (Coaching Officer)

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting (27 September 2012) / Matters Arising

- The minutes had been circulated and were agreed except for the change of 'god' to 'good' and 'Start' to 'Star' in 5. Events and Mapping.

Matters Arising

- **(2(c)): Yvette Baker Competition (the interclub junior competition).** The club had competed at the TVOC event and although initially it appeared that we had not qualified, subsequent results allowed BKO to qualify for the final. However St Andrews would not be available at short notice and as without them we would be very short of juniors, we would not be sending a team.
- **2(d): Club Delegate Conference.** No one from BKO had attended this year. Katy would circulate a report for information. **(Action: Katy)**
- **2(e): Schools Events.** The Berkshire Games are going ahead with Denise having agreed to co-ordinate.
- **6:** Future provision of Emit at BKO events. Tim had not provided an outline of required equipment or costs should the club decide to provide its own system at all our events. Katy has reminded him.

2. Chairman's Update

There were no specific items beyond those already on the agenda.

3. Membership

Ian reported that we had 6 new members (a family of 4 plus a couple). Ian would be checking with BOF the status of 'family' membership under the new structure.

Tim had decided that he would no longer be providing his 'members-system' website beyond the end of the year. Alternatives would be needed and could be based on (1) the BOF database, (2) a free web-based system, or (3) a commercial site. It was agreed that we did not need to rush to decide which to operate. Ian would transfer the current data onto a spreadsheet and provide this to key officers as required whilst investigating whether more sophisticated systems would be valuable.

(Action: Ian)

An additional consequence of Tim's imminent departure for the USA was that the BKO website would need a new webmaster in the near future. Andy had offered to take this on and would be having discussions with Tim about the way the site is managed.

(Action: Andy)

4. SCOA Report

There had not been a SCOA meeting since the last Committee meeting. Katy provided a brief update on JK issues.

5. Club Nights

Katy provided the Committee with attendance data for the club nights. Although only small numbers have been attending each week, it was providing an opportunity for members to meet and for newcomers to find out about the sport. We have already received £1000 from BOF to help fund the evenings for 2012-13 and a further £1000 is probably due in January (there have been funding issues at BOF and we await developments). This would then be the end of the central support. The Committee discussed future options and decided that the Club Nights would continue in their present form until Easter (but be kept under review in case numbers drop below current levels).

6. Events and Mapping

6.1 Events

Andy circulated an updated listing of BKO events. The following issues were raised:

- Officials for the remainder of the Saturday series appeared to have been agreed.
- Katy reported a major problem with the Crown Estate (CE) apparently adopting a new policy with regard to vehicular access onto CE land. This appears to prohibit all access making car parking an impossibility. In our current schedule, this would impact Swinley East (in March) and the Southern Champs 2014 (Star Posts). Discussions would continue to see if this is the CE's intention. Black Park was thought an alternative to Swinley East if necessary.
- There was still no offer for Organiser for the 19th May SCOA League even at Bloom Wood.

6.2 Future use of Emit

Pending further information on required equipment, the Committee had a brief discussion on future options. We would continue to use the Emit event service for the present.

6.3 Mapping

- Benyons Enclosure has been updated prior to the Saturday event in December.
- We will be having Star Posts mapped by a commercial mapper prior to the Southern Championships assuming parking issues can be resolved. No work will start until we are certain that we will be able to stage the event.

6.4 Other issues

The British Junior Squad and asked for permission to use an urban area for training at the start of January. Birch Hill had been proposed and this was acceptable to the Committee.

7. Treasurer's Report

Peter circulated updated accounts and he identified the main changes: (a) there had been a good surplus for the Windsor and Eton event in September; (b) the club had received £1000 toward the club nights which has covered their costs; and (3) the club had bought 4 replacement Emit controls and start/finish stakes at a cost of £215.

Peter commented that, with changes to the BOF membership structure, it might be appropriate to update the BKO Constitution and bye laws. He agreed to draft and circulate proposals.

(Action: Peter)

8. Development Matters

The 2011-2012 Development Plan had been circulated and some items were identified as needing updating/action:

- We need to confirm Junior reps.
- We need to appoint a Publicity Officer.
- Data on the Permanent O-Courses needs to be checked (e.g. on the BOF system).

(Action: David)

Katy would circulate a more detailed listing of action points for future discussion.

(Action: Katy)

9. Secretary's Report

9.1 2013 AGM/Annual Dinner

It was agreed that we would hold the AGM/Dinner at The Bull at Theale following the successful event last February. Options for dates included February 8th and 22nd. David would check availability and inform the Committee.

(Action: David)

9.2 Committee Vacancies

It was noted that the Committee had managed to survive during the year despite being 3 members short but it was agreed that the situation was not good and that additional members were needed. Following the resignation of Keith as newsletter editor, David had offered to take on this task but felt that it would be instead of his role as club Secretary. As an interim, he would produce the January issue whilst remaining Secretary.

10. Coaching Report

No report

11. Youth League

The league continues with results based on the Winter Saturday series. However it was noted that when St Andrews do not attend, the number of juniors is quite small.

12. Next Meeting

It had previously been proposed that the next meeting would be Thursday 17th January 2013. This was confirmed and would be at 8.00 at Katy's house – 3 Kelburne Close, Winnersh.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 British Schools Championships

The Committee was delighted to note that St Andrews had won the 'Preparatory/Middle' class at the British Schools Championships held in Cheshire.

13.2 Ash Die-back Disease

There was a short discussion of the potential implications of the discovery that ash die-back disease was now present in UK woodland. BOF had issued advice and the Committee felt it important that we should follow all such advice and be seen to be responsible users of woodland. It was recognised that orienteering could be severely affected if landowners felt that we were helping to spread the disease. David would put an item in the January newsletter.

The meeting closed at 10.30