



TVOC Club meeting: Minutes

Held at 8pm on Tuesday 21st March 2017 at The Merry Bells, Wheatley

Present: Carol Edwards (Chair), John Dalton (Minutes), Martin Ricketts (Treasurer), Yvonne Hodson, John Farren, Glynis Wheatcroft, Neville Baker, Robin Bishop

Apologies for absence: Bob Beresford, Nat Skidmore, Richard Sharp, Jon Wheatcroft

1. Matters Arising from previous Club Meeting

a) TVOC equipment insurance arrangements

ACTION UNDERWAY: Martin Ricketts to circulate complete kit lists for review.

b) Planners Checklist

Mark definitely plans to do this in due course.

c) Clubmark Accreditation (John Dalton)

All evidence submitted and accreditation has been confirmed by British Orienteering. **ACTION COMPLETE**

d) Hill End: John Farren

John Farren in contact with Amanda Warwick at Hill End. Hill End is in the process of becoming a recognised orienteering centre. John has provided an up-to-date map. They are setting up three permanent courses using 39 control sites. **ACTION COMPLETE**

2. Recent Club Successes

British Night Orienteering Championships, Great Tower, by Windermere, Lake District, on 25th Feb.

- Inara Gipsle 2nd in W65L,
- Carol Edwards 3rd W60L,

Northern Championships:

- Inara Gipsle W65 first,
- Nigel Bunn M50 3rd;
- Fiona Bunn W18E second.

CompassSport Cup

FROM ALISON SMITH:

Many thanks to everyone who turned up to compete at Cold Ash. We didn't quite make it through to the final, but it was very close – we were second to Southern Navigators.

SN 2427
TVOC 2406
BKO 2387

Remember that a max of 4 people per course can score, and a max of 25 in total. But even those who were not amongst the top 25 TVOC scores will have helped to reduce the scores of the competitors from other clubs. Special mention to Heidi Lloyd, a newcomer to the sport who scored 95 on the Blue course!

FROM ALUN JONES:

It has been good to see plenty of newcomers competing for us at the CompassSport Cup. But it has been disappointing to see so few juniors entered. How do we convert the many youngsters who come to Saturday Series into regulars at level C events?

The obvious holes in our team are M/W18- and M/W 14-. On M18-, the minimum score was 94, so someone could walk round and get 92 points; on W18-, the minimum was 96. M/W14 was more competitive, so you would need a degree of competence to score useful points.

The other glaring hole is Women's Open. Heidi was last on the course, but scored useful points. Two more ladies as determined as Heidi running WO would have scored us a 94 and a 93.



We would have needed 21 more points to overhaul SN. I do think trying to encourage more juniors to take part, and also getting some of our newer young seniors competing actively MIGHT put us in with a chance for next year.

Mediterranean Orienteering Championships ,10-12th March, Italy

Carol Edwards:

- 1st, W60, Sprint Stage 1
- 3rd, W60, Sprint Stage 2
- 2nd, W60, Sprint Stage 3
- 2nd Overall

3. Club Development

- To review current situation regarding development / sustainability / recruitment / retention / coaching etc.
- It has been good to see plenty of newcomers competing for us at the CompassSport Cup. But it has been disappointing to see so few juniors entered. How do we convert the many youngsters who come to Saturday Series into regulars at level C events?
- A question was asked whether more social events might be organised that non-orientees might be happy to join.

The following suggestions were made to help people to transition from the Saturday Series to larger events:

- Offer juniors a free run at a Saturday Series event to run in a Sunday event
- Communicate more to people that, essentially, a Sunday event is the same as the Saturday series event. Include explanation of the Start procedure at Sunday events
- Try and focus on “hooking” parents. This has been the secret in the past
- Focus, too, on the 30/40 year-old age range
- Continue, through Mike Shire’s efforts, to promote Sunday events alongside Saturday Series events
- Continue to support the Start team by organising for help and coaching to be available at all Starts

There have been no further volunteers to get involved in a Development Group following the recent note.

ACTION: Robin Bishop to set up a Development Group meeting for people who are interested in being involved. The above topics, and others, will be included for discussion.

4. People who have left TVOC

- Who should remain on the TVOC email discussion group?

TVOC currently has two different GoogleGroups email lists. One list (TVOC-ANNOUNCEMENTS) has not been used since 2012 and was used to publicise event schedules on a monthly basis.

The second list is TVOC-MEMBERS. This is the list accessed via the tvoc@tvoc.org.uk email address. People have to ask to be added to such lists and they are not automatically added. It was noted that a number of active members of the club are NOT on this list.

Mike Shires oversees a separate MailChimp emailing list. This list includes members who want to be notified of future events, and people from the Saturday Series who want to receive email notification of future events.

Finally, Mike Shires runs the TVOC Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/tvocclub/>

The following were **AGREED:**

- The TVOC-ANNOUNCEMENTS GoogleGroup will be removed. **ACTION:** John Dalton to ask Duncan Booth for his help with this
- Most non-members will be removed from the TVOC-MEMBERS GoogleGroup. Exceptions to remain on the list are non-members who are still closely-associated with the club. **ACTION:** Carol Edwards will make the necessary deletions
- Members of the club who are not members of the TVOC-MEMBERS GoogleGroup will be contacted to see if they would like their email addresses to be added. **ACTION:** Carol Edwards to make contact with such members



- How can we show our appreciation for people who have contributed hugely to the club and are now stepping back?

FROM ALUN JONES:

I think a simple letter from the Chairman (or possibly the previous Chairman if the current one does not know the individual well) would be the best solution.

Other suggestions included:

- Some sort of memento, certificate or ornament
- Mounted map of a favourite area

TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING

5. Documentation of information for Planners and others (Nat Skidmore)

a) Documentation of Maps

Currently, who maps what area seems to be run along informal lines. This can make it difficult for those planning, and Series Coordinators, to know who best to contact for information about the latest map. It would be useful to be able to find out the following:

- Where the latest versions of maps are held
- Who was the latest mapper for an area
- When the area was last mapped

John Farren explained how he should hold copies of all the latest maps of our areas. However, he only receives the latest copy from people who remember to send them to him. He often does not receive the latest copy of a map, particularly for the smaller events. John is happy to continue to keep all OCAD map files on behalf of the club. All maps are now in OCAD 11 or 12.

COULD ALL PLANNERS AND MAPPERS WHO HAVE UPDATED MAPS PLEASE EMAIL THEM TO JOHN FARREN FOR THE RECORD

b) Documentation of other useful event information

In addition to map files, the following related information would be useful to be able to access:

- Schedule of previous organisers
- Details about obtaining permissions for an area
- Key contacts for permission
- Parking information etc.

John Dalton reported a dialogue that had taken place between Alun Jones and Nat Skidmore about creating a central on-line storage location for Organisers (and Planners) to store key information for future Organisers (and Planners) to refer to when organising future events on the area. This would contain information about the landowner(s), obtaining permission, car parking, previous Flyers and Final Details etc.

Alun Jones has taken previous work done by Mark Collis in Excel and has started to consider an online environment (perhaps in Dropbox) that could be used by the club.

Glynis Wheatcroft said she would be happy to share the latest information with Alun to ensure the Hamblidedded data is up-to-date.

ACTION: John Dalton to liaise with Alun and Nat about the creation of such an on-line storage location.

NOTES:

- Neville has a large number of paper files about previous areas. However, many of these will be out-of-date
- John Farren has a definitive list of all areas that TVOC have mapped (whether current or not)



6. Past events

- Nettlebed, Level C, 26FEB17

FROM ORGANISER, RICHARD SHARP

The SCOL7 level C event at Nettlebed attracted a large entry who enjoyed good weather and well-received courses, planned by Ed Nicholas. The new map by Robin Bishop and Martin Ricketts also received positive comments. We took almost exactly £400 in donations and car parking fees and I propose that the club rounds up this figure to £500 as a donation to the Sue Ryder home, whose grounds we used for parking. Due to a large EOD, we ran out of maps quite quickly on some courses but were able to recycle some.

I would note that the state of the toilets at the home is not good and I received one complaint about them. Understandably, maintenance of these facilities is not high on the list of priorities for the home and I would recommend that the organiser of a future event here bring in Portaloos instead.

One young boy was injured on his course. He cut his leg on a stump or branch but fortunately was going round with his father. AVR responded quickly and dealt with the case effectively. I have completed and submitted a BOF accident report form. Does the club maintain a central record of these or is the responsibility left to individual organisers? In an age of increasing awareness of insurance responsibilities, it strikes me that this is one area where the club should have some oversight.

Many thanks to the team leaders and all helpers on the day. Due to other events on the same date, we were rather stretched but I believe we covered all the important roles.

Subsequent to the event, I have approached Heather Giles of the Nettlebed Estate regarding potential use of the area for the JK 2019. I will let Steve Long and Neville Baker know when she approves access to assess parking options.

FROM ALUN JONES:

- 1) Huge turn-out, both of pre-entries (314) and EoD (92). This (406) is the highest number at any of our level C events, except for last year's YBT (422) and at Nettlebed in April 2012 (441) - the latter was titled Not the Chiltern Challenge as our level B that year was a CompassSport Cup round. A good number of 'beginners' this time as well, some coming after Waddesden.
- 2) Despite what I thought was a conservative (i.e. large) map count, we ran out on some courses - Yellow, Orange, Light Green - and were very low on Brown. We did recycle a few maps.
- 3) The event clashed with the Northern Champs weekend. This could be a bad thing for entries (many keen orienteers will go to the Northern Champs), but also a good thing (little else on in the South).
- 4) The clash did mean that a dozen of our core team were away. Teams were quite stretched. We need to extend our helper team to the occasional orienteers in our midst.
- 5) Not seen any accounts, but the entry numbers must give rise to a decent surplus from the event.

Overall, I thought we did well, despite being quite stretched in places.

The following were **AGREED**:

- A donation of £500 would be made to the Sue Ryder hospice for car parking.
ACTION: John Dalton will post cheque on
- A donation of £250 would be made to the preferred charity of the Nettlebed Estate in lieu of a land access fee. This to be positioned as a result of higher than expected entries
ACTION: John Dalton to make contact with the Nettlebed Estate to organise this
- Accident forms should be lodged with the paper-based entry forms stored by Alun Jones.
ACTION: John Dalton to ask Richard Sharp to provide a copy to Alun

Martin Ricketts reported that the expected surplus for the event will be about £1,350.



- Waddesdon Half Term Event with National Trust (11-19th February)

FROM YVONNE HODSON:

The Waddesdon half-term week was very successful with 1565 participants in total over the 9 days - 27, 46, 184, 215, 174, 273, 287, 173, 186.

The first weekend was low because of the poor weather - light snow and cold winds. The total is 168 more than last year.

The children, parents and grandparents really enjoyed the challenge with many families determined to get all 4 medals - 1 for each course - that fitted together like a jigsaw. The children's faces are delightful when receiving their medals. A group of Girl Guides had a go at the score course and said it was fun. Their Leader was pleased that there was an outdoor activity they could do in February.

A total of 19 helpers (18 from TVOC and 1 from HH) spread over the week joined Waddesdon staff in running the activity, to explain orienteering and set the participants off on their courses and give out Mike's excellent event advertising cards.

A big thank you from me to these volunteers.

Surprisingly, there were many visitors from the Oxford area, lots of whom were interested in our forthcoming Saturday events around there, so look out for newcomers at Wittenham and Cutteslowe.

Waddesdon staff are extremely grateful to TVOC for supporting their half-term activity. They are already seeking support for another similar activity next year

For our Saturday Series event in October we will be able to have the Start at the top of the hill. Waddesdon will help to bus people up the hill.

Waddesdon have asked for help again in February 2018. Be aware that there is a clash with one of these dates.

7. Future Events: see <http://tinyurl.com/TVOC-plans>

NOTE: The meeting should now be reviewing newly appointed Planners and Controllers for Level C events. (Level B events are reviewed by SCOA).

SEE APPENDIX FOR FULL DETAILS OF ALL EVENTS CURRENTLY PLANNED

8. Saturday Series (Nat Skidmore)

Nat reported the following:

- We've had two very successful events this year, both with new planners in John Owens and Tom Venn
- Our financial position is healthy and participation is flat versus a year ago, although I suspect total participants is up with many family groups
- We have a calendar of events which I'm currently trying to extend into the Autumn, and volunteers for helping and planning are just about sufficient in number but a struggle persuading and generally the same faces
- A big thanks from me to the two new planners, Mike as always for posters and marketing, Mark for armchair controlling and all the helpers and coaches (especially EMIT team for carting all the kit across the county)
- Nat will update the website when he can

Please see attachment to the Minutes for a summary of the Saturday Series as of March 2017.

9. Summer Series 2017 (Chris Poole)

Nothing to report



10. Oxford Street Series (Robin Bishop)

It was proposed that we explore the migration of the Oxford Street Series website over the the TVOC web site.

11. Other Mapping Topics

A discussion was had about the best way to identify potential mappers well in advance of future events. Areas can need mapping 12 months before an event.

There are indications that TVOC is relying too much on the mapping services of too few people, meaning that the mapping load is falling on the shoulders of too few people.

Also, mapping is commonly an extremely time-consuming activity that is critical to the success of the sport. In TVOC, mapping is routinely conducted by volunteers.

Currently TVOC relies on volunteers offering to take mapping roles on.

The club should consider how it can "spread the load of mapping more widely in the future.

12. Officers Reports

- a) Chairman:
Nothing further to report
- b) Treasurer:
The surplus from the Ladygrove event is £1,400
- c) Secretary:
Nothing further to report
- d) Captain:
Nothing further to report
- e) Membership Secretary:
Nothing further to report

13. Any Other Business

a) Cubs Event at Hill End 25JUN17

John Owens (Planner/Organiser at Hill End) has been contacted via Hill end by Marcus Goodwin, a volunteer with Oxfordshire County Scouts, responsible for organising Cub Scout Events in Oxfordshire.

Marcus is looking at organising an Orienteering event / competition at Hill End Centre on Sunday 25th June for up to 200 Cub Scouts from all over Oxfordshire County. This is something that has been requested by several Cub Leaders in the County and they are always open to new events particularly when they gel so well with the core values of Scouting.

It seems that Marcus needs significant orienteering input to help with this event.

ACTION: John Dalton will contact Marcus to understand more about their needs, and whether we can encourage them to utilise any of our three existing Saturday Series events already planned in the Oxford area over the summer.

Date of next meeting:

Confirmed as 8pm on Tuesday 16th May 2017 at The Merry Bells, Wheatley.



APPENDIX: Future Events

2017

a) Hambleden (Sunday 9th April 2017, Chiltern Challenge, Level B, SCOA Champs)
Organiser: Jon and Glynis Wheatcroft, Planners: Mark Thompson and Peter Riches, Controller: Terry Smith, SOC

Organiser reported that all was fine. AVR not available, so using M&M Medical for First Aid. Toilets booked. The first deposit has been paid. The only problem would be very heavy rain before the event.

ACTION: John Dalton to check status of a second deposit for the event

UPDATE: Second deposit was required and has now been paid

Planners reported that courses being finalised. Controller should complete checking first week March.

It has been agreed that, at this event:

- No dogs in the woods. Well-behaved dogs on a lead in the car park. Please clean up after your dogs.
- No pairs and groups together beyond the Orange course

Entries coming in steadily, at 66 as of 14MAR17 (now over 100), on track for maybe 500 pre-entries which would be a good result.

Map:

Mark Thompson and John Farren reported that the mapping is now mostly complete bar a few tweaks near control sites

b) North and East Abingdon (Bank Holiday Monday, 28th August 2017, Urban, Level C)

Organiser: Luke McNeill, Planner: Fiona Bunn, Controller: John Orton, NWO.

OFFICIALS REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY MEETING

Luke McNeil reported that:

- Permission for the event centre on Abbey Meadows is confirmed.
- Donation will be made to the council-approved charity for this year as part of the permission to use the land.
- Proceeds to go to SCOA Junior Squad.
- Junior Squad will hopefully will provide some helpers

Map:

Martin Ricketts has started creating the map. He has promised Fiona a version by Easter

c) British Middle Distance Championship (Wendover, Sunday 1st October 2017)

Organiser: Mike Cope (CLARO), Planners: Mark Thompson and Peter Riches, Controller: Hedley Calderbank (HH)

NOTE: This is not a TVOC event. The Organiser is Mike Cope (CLARO).

The Planners reported that they aim to finalise courses by the end March, with sites then being checked by controller.

ACTION: John Dalton to confirm whether EMIT or SI are being used.

UPDATE: This is an SI event

Map:

Mark Thompson and Jim Prowting

First draft complete end January 2017. Plan vegetation update in July.

d) Penn Woods (Saturday 2nd December 2017, Southern Night Championships, Level B)

Organiser: Alun Jones, Planner: Neville Baker, Controller: Mike Pemberton (BKO)

OFFICIALS REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY MEETING (Done by SCOA)



Car parking has been secured, and use of the loading bay.

Alun Jones reported that:

Martin Ricketts has paid the deposit for the village hall hire for Saturday evening. Modest progress with organising. Parking agreed. Attending local council meeting on Thursday. St John Ambulance have declined first aid (probably cannot get volunteers to attend). Have now asked AVR, awaiting response. Officials for the level C are experienced - I organised at level B (includes the night before!), Gary has planned level Cs in 2013 and 2011.

Map:

Bob Beresford

Updating of the Penn map is progressing somewhat slower than expected. The LIDAR data is being used to check locations of features - especially depressions. There has been a lot of thinning in some areas which has left brashings in what were nice runnable areas!

e) Penn Woods and Common Wood (Sunday 3rd December 2017, Level C).

Organiser: ~~Alun Jones~~ John Dalton, Planner: Gary Walford, Controller: David Frampton (HH)

OFFICIALS REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY MEETING

Gary Walford is planning to use the same start and finish for the Dec 3rd event as the Dec 2nd Night event, so there is no merit in progressing the alternative field option.

Map:

As above

2018

f) RAF Halton and Wendover tbc. (Sunday 21st January 2018, Level C, part Urban)

Organiser: Dougie Cochrane, Planner: Nat Skidmore. Controller: tbc.

OFFICIALS REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY MEETING

Dougie Cochrane has volunteered to organise. He hasn't organised before, but he does know the area and has many relevant contacts on the RAF base. He says we could possibly use his office for registration etc. He will need to attend a Safety Course. Given that Ben Green also offered to organise, we should ask Ben if he can Mentor Dougie.

ACTION: John Dalton to circulate a note to all parties proposing the above.

Map:

A discussion was had about the mapping needs for this event. John Farren explained that the creation of a single map with both Halton and the necessary part of Wendover might be a challenge.

ACTION: John Farren if will try to identify a mapper for this event. Robin Bishop was the most recent mapper for Halton, though he is not thought to be available for this remap as he is CC Planner.

UPDATE: It appears that, for many reasons, it may not be possible to produce a single map of Halton and the necessary part of Wendover together. The map for this event may therefore be a two-sided map, with the Wendover part on one side, the Halton part on the other.

g) BUCS 2018 Championships (Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 February 2018)

Organised by OUOC

Support requested from TVOC

Saturday Series / BUCS Individual: Bradenham

Sunday BUCS Relay: Shotover

Some concern was expressed about trying to link a Saturday Series event with BUCS 2018. These included concerns about BUCS competitors coming into contact with Saturday Series competitors, and the perceived need for the two events to run at different times. John Dalton assured the meeting that the two concurrent event approach had several advantages that had already been seen by OUOC. It meant that little extra TVOC resource would be needed, but that TVOC would be able to provide the necessary timing



infrastructure. All helpers will be able to get a run, too. TVOC would use the usual Saturday Series area, whilst the three BUCS courses could start on the other side of the road. OUOC may need help for the Relay event, but TVOC would not need to provide timing infrastructure.

ACTION: John Dalton to liaise with Jamie Parkinson to confirm any current concerns from OUOC.

Maps:

Bradenham mapper to be agreed

Shotover mapper to be agreed

h) Great Hampden (Sunday 15th April 2018, Chiltern Challenge, Level B

Organiser: John Dalton. Planner: Robin Bishop. Controller: Mike Edwards, RAFO.

Bussing may be necessary for this level B event. Alun has identified suitable parking identified at the foot of Kop Hill at Princes Risborough School. 20 mins uphill walk to Start, though.

ACTION: John Dalton, Robin Bishop and Mark Thompson plan to meet up at the area over the next three weeks to discuss Start and Finish locations, bussing routes, and to meet the Estate staff.

Map:

Mark Thompson has agreed to map

Mark plans to update great Hampden during 2Q for the event next year before they put out the pheasants.

i) Coombe Hill tbc. (May or June 2018, Level C)

Organiser: tbc. Planner: tbc. Controller: tbc.

Map:

Martin Ricketts has offered to update the map. Robin Bishop has done some recent updates to the map.

j) Bicester Urban (Monday August 31st 2018 Level C)

Organiser: tbc. Planner: tbc. Controller: tbc.

Map:

A discussion was held about the approach necessary to produce this new map. This will be a non-trivial task.

ACTIONS:

- John Farren will contact Roger Thetford for advice about the best way to produce this map
- John Farren will then try and find a mapper to take the creation of this map on

k) Shotover tbc. (Sunday dd November 2018, Level C)

Organiser: tbc. Planner: tbc. Controller: tbc.

John Farren commented that the bracken is still very high at Shotover in November. February to April are better months for Shotover events.

Map:

2019

ACTION: Neville proposed that initially he and Alun start to think in more detail about a full programme of 2019 events. **ACTION CARRIED OVER**

l) RAL (April 19th 2019, JK Sprint)

Use of RAL as a JK venue is uncertain. There are plans for major developments at the site, but funding and timescales are as yet very uncertain. A board decision as to whether we will have access is some months away.

m) JK Relay (April 22nd 2019)

Nettlebed is currently the preferred location by the Planner, Steve Long.



Neville reported that, after inspection, he thinks Nettlebed could be a suitable area to use, subject to car parking availability. Neville has identified three different fields that might suffice for this. This would come from the estate.

ACTION: Richard Sharp is helping to coordinate a site visit with the Nettlebed Estate for Neville to explore car parking options

Wormsley may be a fall-back option

Quite similar in terrain to Hambleden. Woods perhaps lacking enough decent features to be ideal, but generally does look a very promising venue. Next step is for Steve Long (planner) to review in detail, probably in February.

Neville reported that the estate seemed very enthusiastic. Arena area and car parking have been identified. Neville agreed that there might be a shortage of features for a good relay event. It is generally rolling hills and slopes.

Map:

Bob Beresford said he would be happy to help with mapping of Wormsley, if we get that far and TVOC are to do the mapping.

2020

n) Hambleden (British Nights, Saturday 22nd February 2020, Level A).

Organiser: tbc, Planner: tbc, Controller tbc

Alun Jones reported that SCOA have asked that TVOC organise the British Nights, to be followed by a Chiltern Challenge (Level B).

John reported that Hambleden have given provisional permission for this event

Map:

o) Hambleden (Chiltern Challenge, Saturday 23rd February 2020, Level B).

Organiser: tbc, Planner: tbc, Controller tbc

John reported that Hambleden have given provisional permission for this event

Map:

A significant debate was had about the ability of TVOC to both map and organise these two events given the constraints of Hambleden being a shooting estate.

Critical is the difficulty of obtaining sufficient access to the woods for mapping before the event. As a Night Event, the event has to be held sufficiently early to be dark. However, the woods are not available for easy mapper (and Planner/Controller_ access until 1st February.

These problems could be alleviated somewhat by:

- Courses planned 12 months in advance
- Negotiation with the Hambleden Estate to allow some mapper and Planner access during the shooting season

This “double header” event will also put other strains on TVOC organisation. Controls will be required to be put out and collected for two events. Helpers will be needed on both the Saturday and the Sunday of one weekend.

These problems could be alleviated somewhat by ensuring that, as far as possible, both events use the same control sites.

Alternative approaches for these events might be:

- Separate the events out onto separate weekends
- Move the Night Event from Hambleden to an area with better access

It was **AGREED** to postpone any final decision on this matter until after the “double header” events at Penn later in 2017.