



TVOC Club meeting: Minutes

Held at 8pm on Tuesday 19 March 2019 at The Merry Bells, Wheatley

Present: Neville Baker (Chair), John Dalton (Secretary, Minutes), Chris Poole (Vice-Chair), Marie-Anne Fischer (Membership Secretary), Yvonne Hodson, Jon Wheatcroft, Daniel Gardner

Apologies for absence: Mark Thompson, Heidi Lloyd, Bob Beresford, Martin Ricketts (Treasurer)

1. Matters Arising from previous Club Meeting

a) TVOC equipment insurance arrangements

ACTION: Final list (after final edits) to be submitted to insurance company by Martin

b) Club Kit (Heidi Lloyd)

Heidi Reported:

- The new tops have generally been well received but so far I have 3 members with tops that are too small and I don't have the next size up to swap.
- Not everyone has their orders yet. I anticipate ordering a few more tops (max 10?) in order to rectify these issues.
- It should be noted that these tops will cost more each than the original order. I will contact Trimtex for a quote.
- Hopefully you can appreciate that it is very hard to forecast which tops will be required and although I have tried to predict this to the best of my ability it seems I am already short of medium tops.
- Heidi is about to ask for further orders, and to ask people to check their size before placing an order
- A deadline or a second order will be Saturday 20th April (JK Day 2)
- Please let me know if there are any questions or queries.

The meeting agreed that Heidi should go ahead and proceed with a second order

Martin Ricketts Reported:

- Recent Trimtex order paid for - £3,738. We had about £1,300 advance orders; will work out our expected loss sometime, assuming we sell it all at agreed prices.

c) Proposed new web site design (Steve Stone, Nat Skidmore (with Mike Shires)

ACTION: John Dalton to contact Steve and Nat for an update by the next meeting

d) Junior TVOC Representative

Joel Taylor is interested in taking over the role from Fiona Bunn and continues to give this further thought.

ACTION: John Dalton to keep in touch with Joel.

e) Proposal to get rid of paper TVOC membership forms. (Marie-Anne Fischer)

ACTION COMPLETE

f) Google Groups email list.

ACTION: Marie-Anne will review further once 2019 renewals have been completed. **ACTION COMPLETE**

g) Gerrards Cross School Activity, 2nd week March (possibly Friday 15th March)

Club member Phil Arnold is organising a school event at his school, (Moorsland Drive, Gerrards Cross) sometime during the 2nd week March (possibly 15th). Andrew Chalmers is mapping the school, plus East Common in Gerrards Cross. Phil will ask the club membership if any of them are able to help.

UPDATE: Event postponed due to high winds. New date: 26APR19.

2. Recent Club Successes

UKOL

- The Thompsons have made a clean sweep of the 80s age groups in the UKOL.
 - John won M80
 - Jenny won W80
- Nigel Bunn 2nd M50
- Roger Thetford 3rd M55



- Anne Edwards 1= W21
- Bethany Kippin 2nd W18

UK Urban League (UKUL) 2018

Nathan Taylor, winner of MYJ

Joel Taylor, winner of MJ

Southern England Orienteering Urban League (SEOUL) 2018

Nathan Taylor, winner of MYJ

Joel Taylor, winner of MJ

Paul Taylor, Winner of MV

Alun Jones, Winner of MSV

Daniel Walker has received the following incentive scheme certificates: Racing Challenge: Gold Award **

Imogen Cochran has received the following incentive scheme certificates: Racing Challenge: Silver Award ****

Marissa Hughes has received the following incentive scheme certificates: Navigation Challenge ****

Louisa Lloyd has received the following incentive scheme certificates: Racing Challenge: Bronze Award *, Navigation Challenge *

Stephen Cunnane has received the following incentive scheme certificates: Navigation Challenge ***

Andy Lawrence has received the following incentive scheme certificates: Racing Challenge: Bronze Award *****, Navigation Challenge *****

Welsh Champions

- Alun Jones, M65
- Robin Bishop, M50

Northern Championships

- Jenny Thompson, 1st W80
- Nigel Bunn, 1st M55
- Fiona Bunn, 1st W20E
- Neville Baker, 1st M65

Mediterranean Orienteering Championships

- Alun Jones, 1st M65

3. Timing Systems (Robin Bishop)

- Report back from the Timing Systems Working Group
Pressure is growing to increase TVOC's own stock of EMIT cards due particularly to the growing success of the Saturday Series. There is concern that a decision on future timing systems might drift still further.

Bob Beresford commented:

If there is going to be a further delay with the timing systems and the Saturday Series requires more EMIT cards then I think they should be funding them from the Saturday Series. They already have a very cheap deal and don't pay extra for EMIT hire which Sunday events have to do. They get most of the benefits of Sunday events for less than half the price. If they increased the entry fee to £10, then the extra £3 per competitor would bring in £400 per event based on the recent Bradenham event, so ca £4000 per year – enough for a about 70 EMIT cards.

Alun Jones commented:

We do have a serious issue here, which needs resolution. I am concerned about buying more cards without a recognition of what our future plan is. There is a real danger either of money down the drain, or of a decision to stick with EMIT being made by default.



I would urge that we ensure the Timing Systems Working Group (and anyone else we need input from) are requested to return to the May meeting in a position to comment constructively on how we resolve this conundrum.

The feeling of the meeting was as follows:

- **It was mentioned that** there appears to be ongoing unreliability of touch-free timing systems. **However, no concrete evidence for this was shared.**
- If no long-term decision is recommended on new timing equipment for TVOC by the May meeting, TVOC should proceed immediately to purchase additional EMIT cards as previously agreed at the May 2018 meeting.
- This is primarily to ease the overhead on helpers, and those needing to organise obtaining hired cards. This is also to prevent the likelihood of running out of cards at future Saturday Series events
- This decision should not be seen to prejudice a future decision to switch to SI (or other timing systems)

FOR INFORMATION: The Minute taken in the May 2018 meeting was as follows:

“The following was **AGREED**. That the Registration and EMIT Team Leader be authorised to spend up to £1,000 on replacement EMIT cards as the need arises and as they see fit”

4. Insurance following newsletter item from Peter Hart at British orienteering

Bob Beresford commented:

It seems pretty clear that after 3 ‘taster’ events BO say the participants are not insured by BO Insurers. Therefore if after more than 3 events, something happens and a participant pursues litigation, it is quite possible that they could sue TVOC as a Club or a Club Member, as BO would not cover this.

I think we are well aware there are people who have come to more than 3 events, and won't join TVOC. We have turned a blind eye to this and maybe the time has come to insist until they join they can't participate – maybe that is harsh, but are we prepared to take the risk when so much is at stake? The participants may say they wouldn't sue us, but if something happens they could easily change their mind.

Alun Jones commented:

When discussing BOF's insurance issue, it would be worth flagging up that BOF fees are going up to £15 - to £23 with our fee. And that makes selling membership quite a hard sell, so we may want to think hard about our membership fee later this year.

I would like some early thinking about membership fees, bearing in mind BOF has proposed the BOF fee rises from £11 to £15. My suggestion is to reduce the TVOC fee to nil - hence a total fee of £15 rather than the current £19. This is very much aligned with how to deal with the proposal regarding insurance – i.e. selling joining to get various benefits rather than using the PL cover to brow-beat people into joining.

Martin Ricketts commented:

Club membership - I think a zero fee might be slightly problematical - can we have something nominal but real, say £1 or £2?

Alun Jones subsequently commented:

Peter Hart now fully supports that this should not be about using Public Liability insurance as a lever to force people to join. Instead we should be working to encourage newcomers to join, with insurance as merely a minor benefit among many others to encourage membership. Hence the words I circulated, which I would like the committee to endorse, to be used in all future event literature (suitably amended to reflect the nature of the event). Our helpers should also be encouraging people to join, as per 1f above. And someone should be sorting out the website (would Marie-Anne take this on?), so there is a clear link from the front page to a page about the benefits of membership and how to join.

ACTIONS:

- John Dalton to contact Alun Jones and ask him if he would be happy to confirm appropriate wording he recommends the club use in the future to state its public position on membership, and this matter.



- Marie-Anne to suggest to Steve Stone how he can update the TVOC web site to make information about membership clearer, and link to the British Orienteering web site so people can easily join the club this way.
- John Dalton to ensure a discussion about TVOC membership fees for 2020 be held at the next meeting

5. Past Events

- Martin Ricketts reported the following:
 - Shotover: Payment made at last to BMW charity for parking - Macmillan Cancer £125. Event surplus about £700.
 - Abingdon Venture Rescue - declared up-to-date with payments, having recently paid for Thame and Shotover.
- Chiltern Challenge, Level B National Event, 17FEB19
 - Martin Ricketts reported the following:
 - Chiltern Challenge 2019: all bills paid apart from Mark' Thompson's expense cheque to be paid in! and main Fabian payment due at the end of this month. Surplus about £1,850.
 - See document "Penn Wood - Feb2019 - orienteering event analysis.PDF" for an excellent environmental impact report prepared by Bob Beresford using photographs taken of control sites both before and after the event.
 - **FROM MARK THOMPSON:**
 - Over 500 competitors on the day, I estimate we made a surplus of around £1800. £1000 went to land access and car parking (donations to Charity). Bob and Pattie are now getting invited to tea in rather prestigious company!
 - Prior to the event the discussion on whether to let juniors cross into Common Wood and back via 2 timed out road crossings was a real pain. We need to appoint a Safety Officer and problems like this should be resolved outside of the events. I took the action to discuss with BOF and I believe this has been resolved. I don't know how long it will take the wording in the Rules to change.
 - The Final Details were far too long. Too many people asked to contribute. Organiser needs to edit down to 3 pages maximum in my view.
 - Event seemed to go well on the day. Thanks to all team leaders and their excellent teams. Car parking team did a great job – I think we have a few spaces free so no one parked on the street to my knowledge.
 - We needed the professional First Aiders. AVR did a great job though contacting them is still hard work.
 - I worry that the radios in the Emergency Response kit are toys and next to useless, having tested them around the home and vicinity. I recommend we buy some proper radios for use in an emergency.
ACTION: Jon Wheatcroft offered to review our options for the future
 - There was universal praises for the courses planned by Neville Baker
 - TVOC were very grateful for the help provided by both BADO and BKO for the two starts and the road crossings.
RECOMMENDATION: In the future, Planners are strongly discouraged from planning events that require two Starts. From a manpower perspective, it is far better to plan for one Start and two Finishes if this is required
 - Road Crossings
 - A discussion was had about the British Orienteering rules for road crossings for the under 16s.
 - The discussion concluded that:
 - The current rule as documented by British Orienteering is ambiguous, unclear and open to different interpretations
 - The Organiser for the Chiltern Challenge (in discussion with other club members), utilised a reasonable interpretation of that rule for the event
 - It is understood that the wording regarding road crossings will be improved for a future version of British Orienteering rules



- Waddesdon, February Half Term (16-24 February), National Trust (Yvonne Hodson)
 - From the National Trust Waddesdon Staff and Volunteers Newsletter (forwarded by Yvonne)
“Half-term pirates: Our Education and Learning team were inundated with over 2200 children taking part in our half-term pirate orienteering week. They swashed buckles, walked the plank and had their timbers shivered by three different courses, with expert help from the Thames Valley Orienteering Club. Numbers were up from 2018, and visitors made the most of the fabulous early Spring sunshine. A big thank you to TVOC for volunteering for the week and all our regular Education volunteers who lent a hand.”
 - Over 2,200 youngsters attended, and entered one of three different courses. An activity was required at each control
 - A number of TVOC members helped during the week. Many thanks to them
 - Particular thanks to Andrew and Liz Chalmers
ACTION: Neville Baker offered to spend specific thanks to Andrew and Liz for their outstanding efforts

- Coaching Sessions organised by Roger Thetford and Simon Kippin
 - Simon Kippin, with the support of Chris Poole and Ian Buxton, coached 9 TVOC members alongside the SCOA Junior Squad (of which 6 were TVOC).
 - Roger Thetford had a dozen WAOC and TVOC adults in the afternoon of his session (5 from TVOC), and about 15 juniors plus 8-10 sundry adult companions in the morning (one TVOC junior plus two TVOC adults; the rest were WAOC and EAJS). Two of the three adult WAOC control-hangers also took part in the training. So 7+1 from TVOC but a lot of coaching goodwill generated.
 - Chris Poole commented that he saw mainly adults. They all found the session very worthwhile. Most useful was the opportunity to learn about new techniques that they had no previous awareness of. These techniques were immediately practiced, and were reinforced when the participants collected all controls after the activity!

6. JK 2019 (Neville Baker)

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)

Martin Ricketts reported:

Christmas Common - I have to finalise courses after a visit last Saturday. Will be done by Thursday. 1 loo ordered and paid for.

Mike Shires reported:

Mike is shortly to start extending the Headington Hill Park and Oxford Brookes map to include the Gipsy Lane Campus - Brookes have given their permission to use this campus as part of an event too.

(An event is being proposed for 10th August. Mike appears to be happy to map and plan).

Also, Mike has permission in principle from Oxford City Council and Brookes for an event at Raleigh Park and the Harcourt Hill Campus of Oxford Brookes, which would make quite a nice Saturday Series venue, with parking at Brookes. Mike is aiming to map that campus and park later in the year, or early next year, for a possible Saturday Series event next year.

9. Summer Series 2019 (Chris Poole)

Chris has proposed 10 dates this summer. Four already have Planner/Organisers (Wendover, Wittenham Clumps, Hodgemoor and Chesham Bios). Please offer to Plan/Organise the remaining dates.



10. Oxford Street Series (Robin Bishop)

Nothing reported

11. Other Mapping Topics

Daniel is interested in mapping Westwood, near Little Chalfont. This is a strip of land owned by the Forestry Commission, and is Forest Enterprise Access land. The area would make a good Summer event, perhaps in 2020. There is a car park for about 40 cars.

Daniel was advised to:

- Explore permission directly with the Forestry Commission. Mark Thompson might be able to advise on local FC contacts Daniel could contact
- John Dalton has central FC contacts he can refer Daniel to
- Once permission has been obtained from the FC, Daniel should seek to register an event through Neville so that British Orienteering insurance cover is provided for mapping activities

12. Officers Reports

- a) Chairman:
Nothing further to report
- b) Treasurer:
Nothing further to report
- c) Secretary:
Nothing further to report
- d) Captain:
Nothing further to report
- e) Membership Secretary:
Nothing further to report

13. Situations Vacant

Role	Previous Holder
Team Leader, Registration and Results	Alun Jones
Magazine Editor	Ian Buxton

Team Leader, Registration and Results:

For now, the EMIT/Registration team are agreeing amongst themselves who is taking a lead for the team for each event.

Magazine Editor:

The club is in great need of an editor of some sort. Ideally this will be an editor of a printed, posted newsletter. At the very least, someone who can coordinate the publication of a regular flow of articles, information and news via the web site.

ACTION: Both Situations Vacant to be reviewed after the JK.

14. Any Other Business

None

Date of next meeting:

Confirmed as 8pm on Tuesday 21st May 2019 at The Merry Bells, Wheatley.



APPENDIX: Future Events

Changes and additions since the previous version of the Minutes are shown in red

2019

a) Thame Urban Event (Sunday ~~30th June~~ 1st September 2019. Urban, Level C, UKOL and SEOUL League events)

Organiser: Glynis and Jon Wheatcroft, **Planner:** Neville Baker. **Controller** tbc. **Mapper:** Mike Shires
THESE WERE APPROVED BY TVOC IN THE MEETING

The local council have agreed to the event. The Town Hall has been booked as the Event Centre.

b) Wendover (Sunday 10th November 2019, Level C)

Organiser: Adam Poole. **Planner:** Chris Poole. **Controller** Geoff Ellis, BOK. **Mapper:** Jim Prowting.
THESE WERE APPROVED BY TVOC IN A PREVIOUS MEETING

Chris Poole reported previously:

- There will be no EOD if we want to use the RAF Halton site for car parking and assembly. All runners must be pre-entered so the RAF know who is attending.
- Permission will not be confirmed until March when a new Station Commander arrives
- On Sunday 10th November a 2-minute silence is to be respected
- We will be able to invite traders
- There continues to be "a state of flux" at RAF Halton. It may still be necessary to re-locate the event centre, and possibly up to the trig point field at the top.

Chris reported:

- The Organiser has now attended an Event Safety course
- Formal permission from the FC for the event is being confirmed by the Organiser
- If permission is looking unlikely from the RAF for parking, we will need to resort to the Trig Point field

Map:

Jim Prowting

2020

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

Organiser: John Dalton, **Planner:** Neville Baker, **Controller:** Alan Rosen (HH), **Mapper:** Mark Thompson and John Farren.

And

d) Hambleden (Chiltern Challenge, Sunday 23rd February 2020, Level B).

Organiser: John Dalton, **Planner:** Neville Baker, **Controller** Alan Rosen (HH), **Mapper:** Mark Thompson and John Farren.

ACTION: Neville Baker to ensure all officials have been authorised

General Comments

Permission **AGREED** verbally. With possibility of camping / campervans. Land access fees agreed as acceptable to the meeting.

Map:

Hambleden mapping planned 1/2Q 2019

UPDATE FROM MARK THOMPSON:

Map is progressing well. John F has completed the N and E and I am some 70% complete in the SW. Expect 2-3 days more to complete. Aim to finish end March. Further work on individual control site locations may be required once the control has visited the tagged sites in Mid April.



Other comments:

- Estimate 350 entries for the Night Event
- Estimate 500+ entries for the Chiltern Challenge
- Catering (Tom) booked
- Camping / caravans / motorhomes allowed overnight
- Ultrasport / Ian is retiring. Consider contacting CompassPoint
- Determine whether Michael Napier may be able to provide some support for the Night Event, using MERCS

e) Wycombe Abbey, Keep Hill and Deangarden (Sunday 19th April 2020 tbc., Level C, Yvette Baker Trophy?)

Organiser: tbc. **Planner:** tbc. **Controller:** tbc. **Mapper:** Jegor?????

Permission has been obtained by Chiltern rangers to access Deangarden Woods. We thus have provisional permission to Keep Hill and Deangarden Woods together. Neville is in discussion with Sue Buxton about permission from Wycombe Abbey school.

ACTION CARRIED OVER: Neville to try and confirm an acceptable date with Sue Buxton

Map:

Jegor has agreed to do the map

TVOC need to specify the map. **ACTION:** John Dalton to liaise with TVOC mappers to agree a specification for this work.

f) Abingdon North Urban Event. (Sunday 27th September 2020, Level C, UKUL event tbc.)

Organiser: tbc. **Planner:** tbc. **Controller:** tbc. **Mapper:** tbc.

Map:

ACTION: Neville to contact Fiona / David Bunn about the existence of an Abingdon South map **in case the two maps can be combined**

g) November/December 2020 Event, location t.b.c. (November/December 2020, Level C)

Organiser: tbc. **Planner:** tbc. **Controller:** tbc. **Mapper:** tbc.

Map:

ACTION: Neville to consider

2021

h) Chiltern Challenge 2021 (Sunday 28th February, High Wycombe area)

Organiser: tbc. **Planner:** tbc. **Controller:** tbc. **Mapper:** tbc.

Nettebed?

Bix?

i) Level C event

Organiser: tbc. **Planner:** tbc. **Controller:** tbc. **Mapper:** tbc.

j) Level C event

Organiser: tbc. **Planner:** tbc. **Controller:** tbc. **Mapper:** tbc.

k) Urban Event

Organiser: tbc. **Planner:** tbc. **Controller:** tbc. **Mapper:** tbc.