



TVOC Club meeting: Minutes

Held at 8pm on Tuesday 21st May 2019 at The Merry Bells, Wheatley

Present: Neville Baker (Chair), Martin Ricketts (Treasurer), John Dalton (Secretary, Minutes), Chris Poole (Vice-Chair), Bob Beresford, Alun Jones, Nat Skidmore, Robin Bishop, Yvonne Hodson, Jon Wheatcroft

Apologies for absence: Marie-Anne Fischer

1. Matters Arising from previous Club Meeting

a) TVOC equipment insurance arrangements

Submission complete to insurance company. **ACTION COMPLETE**

b) Club Kit (Heidi Lloyd)

The meeting wished their grateful thanks to be shared with Heidi with her sterling efforts in organising the new kit and replacement jackets. John Dalton offered to formally thank Heidi on behalf of the club. **ALL ACTIONS COMPLETE**

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

Nat Skidmore and Alun Jones reported that significant effort has been put by Steve Stone to develop the web site. Web site is currently at dev.tvoc.org.uk

The web site is now ready to be switched over to “production” as a replacement to the existing web site. Though it will be much easier to make ongoing changes for the future.

ACTIONS:

- Alun Jones offered to ask Steve if he can now make the web site live, and give write access to the site those who will need it.
- John Dalton to formally thank Steve Stone for his efforts. **ACTION NOW COMPLETE**
- John Dalton to provide feedback on access to previous TVOC Minutes on the web site. **ACTION NOW COMPLETE**

d) Junior TVOC Representative

Joel Taylor is interested in taking over the role from Fiona Bunn and continues to give this further thought. **ACTION CARRIED OVER:** John Dalton to keep in touch with Joel.

e) Gerrards Cross School Activity, 26APR19.

This postponed event went ahead. It went very well. There were lots of youngsters present. **ACTION COMPLETE**

f) Insurance following newsletter item from Peter Hart at British Orienteering

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.

UPDATE: John reported that Alun had very kindly provided such wording. This was circulated to the key members of the club (including the Membership Secretary). **ACTION:** John will check that all was received by the recipients.

- 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.

UPDATE: The new web site has significantly re-engineered information about joining the club, using the wording mentioned above. **ACTION COMPLETE.**

It was recently suggested that similar information about joining TVOC should be printed on event maps.

ACTION: Nat to share this suggestion with Neville for consideration.



2. Recent Club Successes

JK 2019 Sprint

- Joel Taylor 3rd M14
- David Bunn 2nd M18E
- Fiona Bunn 2nd W20E
- Daniel Gardner 3rd M Open
- Nigel Bunn 3rd M55
- Alun Jones 2nd M65
- Nev Baker 3rd M65

JK 2019 Middle (Day 2)

- David Bunn 2nd on M18E
- Fiona Bunn 1st on W20E
- Nigel Bunn 7th on M55L
- Alun Jones 1st on M65L
- John Thompson 7th on M80L
- Jenny Thompson 2nd on W80L
- Roger Baker 3rd on M85L

JK 2019 Long (Day 3)

- Results still difficult to confirm

JK Relay

- M165 team (Roger Thetford, Julian Birkinshaw and Nigel Bunn): 2nd

British Championships

- Fiona Bunn 1st W20E
- Nigel Bunn 3rd M55
- Jenny Thompson 3rd W80
- Relays: M50 team (Roger Thetford, Julian Birkinshaw and Nigel Bunn): 3rd

British Orienteering Awards

- Pauline Sinclair Navigation Challenge **
- Jess Arnold Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ****
- John Turner Racing Challenge: Bronze Award *****, Navigation Challenge *****
- Celia Kingham Racing Challenge: Silver Award ***
- Stephen Cunnane Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ***
- Marcin Krzysztofik Navigation Challenge * (!)

3. JK 2019: Feedback and Comments

The following comments were shared:

- Problems with the production of results have been discussed widely since the event
- It was noted how many TVOC members embraced the idea of helping over all four days of this regional event (rather than just selected days)
- The individual day Organisers were all very good. However, the overall coordination of volunteers across the whole event could be improved next time
- The ideas of entries being held open for longer than normal was welcomed
- The event did feel expensive to enter. Disappointment was expressed that there were no entry discounts for helpers. This was felt to be a poor way to treat volunteers, and counter to the current TVOC policy
- Other than the results problems, everything else to do with the event was perceived to be excellent

Neville Baker formally expressed how grateful he was for all the support given to the event by TVOC members.

The significant involvement of both Colin Duckworth (Sprint) and Roger Thetford (the longer courses on Day 3) as Planners of excellent courses was acknowledged.



4. Timing Systems (Robin Bishop)

Pressure has been 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.

Shortly before this meeting, Neville Baker distributed two discussion documents to club members:

- "The Timing Group report into electronic timing systems for orienteering", written by Robin Bishop
- "Proposal to Purchase SI", written by Alun Jones

This is a brief summary of the discussion held during the meeting.

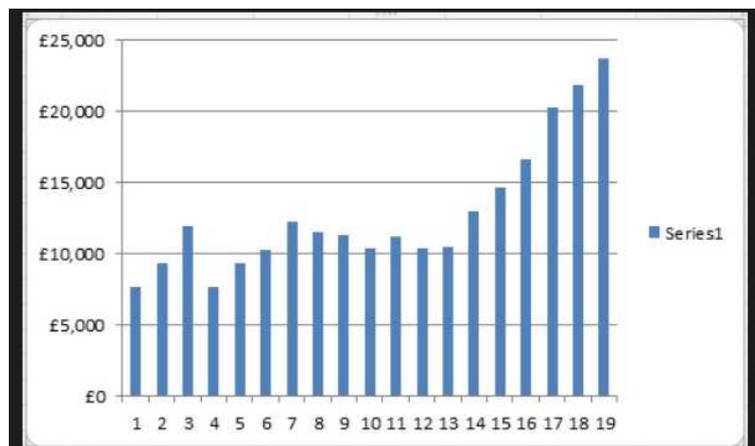
- Robin Bishop talked about the key points in the Timing Group report
- The Timing Group was made up of people with experience of both punching systems available today
- Robin explained the two necessary decisions laid out in the report for decision:
 1. To stay with the existing kit (EMIT), or move to an air/touch-free punching system
 2. If a move to an air/touch-free punching system is required, then which system should be used:
 - EMIT Touch-Free Punching using emiTags
 - SportIdent Active Card (SIAC)

During the following discussion, the following points were all raised:

1. The comprehensive input so far provided by club members responding to the report and proposal written by Robin and Alun before the meeting
2. The technical advantages and disadvantages of each system
3. The ease of use for Planners, Organisers and the Results teams (the kit itself, and computing requirements)
4. Robustness of kit
5. Ease of set-up and maintenance of the systems
6. Battery life
7. Stakes to support the equipment
8. Current use of each system by other clubs
9. The possibility of trialling a new system before investing in it
10. The impact on different levels of event (A, B, C, Saturday Series, Summer Series)
11. Input from other individuals who had used both systems
12. The need for specific expertise within the club
13. The importance of getting lots of practice using any new kit before the February 2020 events at Hambleton
14. The availability of documentation and training support for any new system
15. The cost of a move to SIAC as outline in Alun Jones' "Proposal to Purchase SI" initially costed to be approximately £14,000
16. The affordability of this to TVOC
17. Whether the club needs to make a decision to change timing systems now
18. How to best make a decision about future timing equipment for the club

Prior to the meeting, the Treasurer provided the following information:

Bar chart shows money in the bank at the end of each FY for years 2001 to 2018 and currently





During the discussion, Alun described a “Questions and Comments” document he had created with a table of replies to various e-mail questions received after the Timing note went out.

The meeting **AGREED** that:

- A Special General Meeting would be called by the Chair for June 3rd to allow all club members to make a decision on future timing equipment. This is according to clause 11 in the TVOC Constitution
- Club members who could not be present at the meeting could communicate their input via a proxy vote to the Chair, Neville Baker, before the Special General Meeting

THE MEETING THEN CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL:

- That Alun Jones’ proposal that TVOC proceed to purchase SI equipment is to be put to a Special General Meeting for a decision, with the recommendation that it be accepted

This proposal was **CARRIED** by majority by the following votes:

- 6 for
- 2 against
- 2 abstentions

Neville Baker has subsequently sent out the following note to club members:

We had a very full discussion on timing systems at the TVOC Meeting yesterday evening.

In an indicative vote, a majority of those present were in favour of the club going ahead and purchasing SI kit (with the intention of operating it in Air mode). Nevertheless, the meeting was also firmly of the view that the wider club membership should be given the opportunity to present their views on this important subject.

I have therefore arranged for a Special General Meeting to be held at the Merry Bells Community Centre in Wheatley for 8pm on Monday 3rd June.

This email is a formal announcement of such a meeting, the purpose of which is to agree whether the club should move to SI/SIAir, or should continue with EMIT for the foreseeable future.

No other business will be discussed.

I very much hope that those of you with views on this subject will be able to attend that evening.

For those of you who cannot attend, please let me know whether you are in favour of

1. The club moving to SI/SIAir, or
2. The club continuing with EMIT for the foreseeable future.

I will arrange that these 'proxy' votes be taken into account at the meeting.

Before attending the meeting, or proxy voting, I ask that you review the Timing Systems Report and supporting note from Alun Jones that were circulated to all club members on the 19th May.

Some other clubs around the UK are also investigating changing from EMIT to SI/SIAir, and indeed two Scottish clubs made this transition a couple of years ago.

I also attach a note responding to some of the questions and comments which have been made by email in the last few days.

Obviously, if you have any further questions about this important subject please contact me as soon as possible, either by email or phone 07562 992 292.

Neville

ACTIONS:

- Neville to book the Merry Bells in Wheatley for the Special General Meeting
- Neville to email the club announcing the Special General Meeting on the 3rd June, attaching the Questions and Comments document referred to in his note
- Neville to log the feelings and votes of any member unable to attend the Special General Meeting



5. TVOC Membership Fees for 2020

In 2020 BOF fees are going up to £15 - to £23 (with our £8) fee. And that makes selling membership quite a hard sell, so we may want to think hard about our membership fee for 2020.

Broadly, the membership fee equates to the costs to printing the annual newsletter (about £1,000). The Newsletter is no longer being produced, and it seems unlikely that it will be produced in printed format in the future.

Previously, Alun Jones proposed that TVOC Membership Fee be reduced to £0 (i.e. Free of Charge) in 2020.

After discussion it was **AGREED** that the senior membership fee to join TVOC in 2020 will be £1. Juniors to continue being FOC.

The meeting also **AGREED** that we would reduce the club membership to £1 for joiners for the remainder of this year provided that BOF can do it. New membership for the balance of this year would then be £12 for seniors (with British Orienteering membership). **ACTION:** John Dalton to find out from British Orienteering whether this is possible.

UPDATE AFTER MEETING: British Orienteering have confirmed that they are able to change a Club's membership fee mid-year. John will confirm via Chair and Treasurer that he is to go ahead and request this fee change for new members joining now ASAP.

6. Past Events

From Previous Meeting
Emergency Radios

- Mark Thompson worries that the radios in the Emergency Response kit are toys and next to useless, having tested them around the home and vicinity. Mark recommended we buy some proper radios for use in an emergency.

Jon Wheatcroft has explored the best radios available to the public (i.e. non-commercially). These cost about £70 a pair. Never-the-less they are not still professional quality radios and work best with line-of sight. They are claimed to have up to a 10k range without buildings or trees in the way. They are probably better than our current radios (which were purchased purely to assist with car parking, and NOT for emergency purposes)

DISCUSSION CARRIED OVER TO NEXT MEETING PENDING MORE INPUT

- Waddesdon, February Half Term (16-24 February), National Trust (Yvonne Hodson)
ACTION: Neville Baker offered to send specific thanks to Andrew and Liz for their outstanding efforts. **ACTION CARRIED OVER**

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)

Still struggling to find Planner/Organisers. Nat would welcome more support in coordinating landowner permissions etc. Mark Thompson's help in Controlling courses is invaluable. The new web site should help reduce the administrative overhead.

9. Summer Series 2019 (Chris Poole)

Series starts on the 28th May at Bradenham. 03JUL19 date still vacant for willing Planner/Organiser.



10. Oxford Street Series (Robin Bishop)

One more event for this series. Date to be confirmed. New series will start in September

11. Other Mapping Topics

Daniel was interested in mapping Westwood, near Little Chalfont. No update available.

12. Officers Reports

- a) Chairman:
 - Nothing further
- b) Treasurer:
 - Relay monies nearly all in
- c) Secretary:
 - Nothing further
- d) Captain:
 - Nothing to report
- e) Membership Secretary:
 - Nothing to report

13. Situations Vacant

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

Team Leader, Registration and Results:

Still no progress on finding someone to take this post on. For now, the EMIT/Registration team are agreeing amongst themselves who is taking a lead for the team for each event.

Magazine Editor:

On a temporary basis, Chris Poole has offered to take on a caretaker role of this sort, focusing on on-line information. He proposes to use email and the web site to produce a regular flow of information to the site in summarised, digest form.

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

14. Any Other Business

- a) Permanent Orienteering Courses (Nat Skidmore)
All issues being handled by Ben Green. **ACTIONS COMPLETE**

- b) Waddesdon (Yvonne Hodson)

Waddesdon's summer activities will be based on a theme of Sport. They would be very pleased if TVOC were able to be included in these activities.

The meeting gave a provisional "yes" to supporting Waddesdon pending more details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SINCE MEETING:

Dates are 24th July to the end of August. We don't have to put something on continuously – we could select a day/days/week/period. Up to us.

15. Date of next meetings:

- A Special General Meeting to be held on Monday 3rd June at The Merry Bells, Wheatley
- Next Club Meeting confirmed as 8pm on Tuesday 16th July 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 1st September 2019. Urban, Level C, UKOL and SEOUL League events)

Organiser: Glynis and Jon Wheatcroft, **Planner:** Neville Baker. **Controller:** provisionally scheduled.

Mapper: Mike Shires

THESE WERE APPROVED BY TVOC IN A PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Punching system to be determined before registration can be opened.

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.
- 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

Chris reported at the meeting:

- We are still waiting for feedback about use of the main campus area. We don't have commitment from the RAF, and may not get it.
- Under these conditions, a decision was made to use the trig point field again

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.
- Courses for both days fully-planned
- Courses and control locations reviewed by Controller visit

Map:



Hambleden mapping completed by Mark Thompson and John Farren pending final checks next year

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. **CompassPoint committed to attend**
- **Michael Napier has been lined up to provide some support for the Night Event, using MERCS**
- **Choice of timing system pending TVOC decision above**
- **Adverts in CompassSport (and publicity postcard fliers) kindly to be prepared by Mike Shires for inclusion in October and December editions**

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

Organiser: tbc. **Planner:** Nat Skidmore. **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.

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

Map:

Jegor has agreed to do the map **during August.**

The meeting AGREED that it did not want to pay commercial fees for mapping at this stage.

TVOC need to specify the map. John Dalton has liaised with key TVOC mappers to agree a specification for this work. **ACTION:** specification to be shared with Jegor

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. **ACTION CARRIED OVER**

g) November/December 2020 event, **Shotover proposed** (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?

Christmas Common if parking is suitable

i) Level C **forest** event

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

j) Level C **forest** event

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



k) Urban Event

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