



TVOC Club Meeting Minutes

Held at 8:00pm on Tuesday 19th May 2020 by an online meeting

Present: Nev Baker (Chair), John Dalton (Secretary, Minutes), Martin Ricketts (Treasurer), Marie-Anne Fischer (Membership Secretary), Heidi Lloyd, Jon Wheatcroft, , Bob Beresford, Robin Bishop, Paul Taylor, Joel Taylor, Chris Poole

Apologies for absence: Alun Jones, Ben Green, Yvonne Hodson

1. Matters Arising from previous Club Meeting

a) TVOC Membership information to be printed on TVOC maps

ACTION: Neville to talk to Mike Shires to see if a simple JPEG file about membership can be provided to mappers to position wherever possible on their OCAD maps. This to be done for the Saturday Series and Oxford Street Series of events. **ACTION CARRIED OVER**

b) Volunteering group to help encourage more volunteers.

It was agreed to postpone this until Communications were resolved – see later. **ACTION CARRIED OVER**

c) Splitting Saturday Series Coordinator role.

It was agreed that the size of the events required more than one co-ordinator, and the following plan was agreed:

1. Series Co-ordinator – to sort out dates and overall programme - Nev offered to do this
2. Planning Co-ordinator/Mentor – to find event planners and encourage/mentor new planners
3. Event Co-ordinator/Mentor – to find event organisers and encourage/mentor new organisers

Nev happy carrying on doing 1 and 3. for now. We have had one person who has expressed interest in this role, but they are also interested in other roles.

Nat Skidmore suggested that splitting of role of Planner and Organiser is not particularly beneficial except for exceptional events.

It was **AGREED** to leave as-is for now.

d) Permanent Orienteering Course at Keep Hill and Deangarden Woods (John Dalton)

Bob Beresford has now visited and reviewed the old course using the new map. His feedback is as follows:

- There should be 29 posts
- 24 are in place but very weather worn. They have been there for 18 years or more.
- 2 are missing
- 3 are broken

This area would also be a good area for a Maprun course.

The following options were **AGREED**:

- We should seriously consider this area for a Maprun course
- We should also re-instate the POC.
- We will try and retain the existing posts. Digging out and replacing all posts would be a big job. Most are on paths
- We will purchase new O code plates to be screwed onto the existing posts
- Chiltern Rangers do have spare posts to replace the 5 that are broken or lost

ACTION: John Dalton to talk to Chiltern Rangers about:

- Using their replacement posts
- Availability of equipment to dig new post holes

Having visited the site with the new map, Bob raised a few questions about whether the map had been produced according to the specification we had asked for.



ACTIONS:

- John Dalton to raise Bob's questions about the map with Nat Skidmore (Planner for forthcoming event) and Mark Thompson for second opinions.
- John Dalton to liaise with Nat over getting Freya Askham involved, too (the original Controller)

ACTION:

- John Dalton to pass map onto Mark Thompson and Nat Skidmore (the Planner) for an opinion. The recommendation is that they need to go to the woods to formulate a proper opinion

CARRIED OVER: The suggestion of making a payment of some sort to the mapper, Jegor Kostylev, for his efforts in producing this map. Note that Jegor is an external mapper and is not a member of TVOC.

2. Recent Club Successes

British Night Championships at Hambleden:

- 2nd, W20 Bethany Kippin
- 3rd, W65 Inara Gipsle
- Winner, M55 Roger Thetford

Colin Duckworth was selected for GB and NI in the European Trail O championships due to have been held in Finland.

Fiona Bunn won "Sports Person of the Year", at the first ever University of Cambridge Sports Awards.

3. Ideas for Youth League (in conjunction with Saturday Series): Joel Taylor

Joel mentioned his thoughts for launching a Youth League in conjunction with the Saturday Series. He would like to plan for this to commence in Sept/Oct, but realises that this might not be feasible depending on whether Saturday Series will be happening by then or not.

Joel is keen to get more juniors along to encourage more participation. He has looked at other clubs with successful youth / junior teams in the club including SYO, HH, BKO, etc. and how their youth leagues work.

Joel has suggested we don't make it a school's league, though schools could well be involved.

The plan is to encourage youngsters and try and make it fair across ages and genders etc. And to provide something that will cater for everyone in the youth age range. People will be encouraged to bring friends. This could also become a bridging method into the SCOA squad.

This was universally supported by the club.

ACTION: Joel will work out how it might happen in reality. Ideally to start in the autumn September / October time

4. Past Events

a) EMIT

It was noted that the Saturday Series Planner Guidelines still refer to EMIT.

ACTION: Robin Bishop offered to upgrade these to refer to SIAC. **ACTION CARRIED OVER**

b) From Previous Meeting

Emergency Radios: Neville has started to test the new radios. Performance was poor an urban area.

ACTION: Neville to test in woods and if successful, purchase another 2 (making 4) before the Hambleden event

Tests were acceptable. 2 more radios were purchased. They have a bag, too. **ACTION COMPLETE**

c) Hambleden events:

- British Night Championships (22nd February)
- Chiltern Challenge (23rd February)



John Dalton has written a review document after the event with feedback from a number of people. This is available to anyone who is interested.

There was a very good article about the British Night Championships in CompassSport

The finances for both of the weekend events combined were reported by the Treasurer as:

- £14k income
- £10.3k costs
- £3.7 surplus across both events

5. 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).

A comprehensive discussion was had about the current Coronavirus situation.

Generally, the meeting felt that we cannot progress the timetable of events without being clearer as to when we will be allowed to do so. We don't think we can schedule and register traditional events at this point.

A concern was raised that other clubs might grab the good dates for their future events. Nev promised to keep in contact with Richard Sharp on this.

It was proposed that a focus on alternative activities will be necessary in the short term. Such as Maprun events. (Note the suggestion of using Keep Hill and Deangarden for a Maprun event mentioned above).

Jon commented that urban events were unlikely to be the best locations to re-start orienteering. If we are to invest time, Jon suggests we focus on forest events rather than urban events.

We could go into Shotover quickly when we are allowed to put events on again. Martin Ricketts **AGREED** to review and update the Shotover map.

Nat Skidmore suggested we consider a Level "C" event at Hodgemoor.

Other opportunities to encourage orienteering before full events are allowed back were suggested.

- We have some open access areas. Can we put controls out for a week somewhere? Will this be the first stage of orienteering allowed by BOF? To preserve social distancing
- Can use Keep Hill and Deangarden woods as an option. We were very happy to use Keep Hill and Deangarden as an experiment.
- Heidi keen to try at Wendover. Heidi to contact Ben. Chris happy to be involved. Each to liaise with Ben.

SEE APPENDIX FOR FULL DETAILS OF ALL EVENTS CURRENTLY PLANNED

6. Saturday Series (Neville Baker)

Nat Skidmore proposed we discuss the following:

- Plan for Waddesdon Sat series 2020 and participation gap it creates if not repeated
- Sat series ways of working, especially splitting of role of planner and organiser which Mark and I agree is not overall beneficial except by exceptional event. I'll try and finish the steps putting on an event document to aid the discussion (but work is super busy!)

The meeting concluded that we have no idea when locations will be opened up for orienteering in the future. We can't make any decisions until we know more. We are in the hands of government policy, and the landowners themselves.

ITEM CARRIED OVER

7. Summer Series 2020 (Chris Poole)

All events postponed



8. Oxford Street Series (Robin Bishop)

All events postponed.

Could we use Maprun? There has been a discussion. But a couple of concerns.

- In principle a good idea, and a number of clubs have got it to work
- Some people don't have a smart phone and would be excluded from joining
- Some smart phones are not ideal for this (e.g. with short battery life)
- In urban events you tend to run with a paper map, and the phone beeps when you get to the necessary control
- Is more work to be done to prepare courses
 - Can be problems with Open Orienteering maps not correctly being aligned with GPS. So the control point may be mis-aligned with the map
 - You do have to physically check the control sites
- We would need to experiment to see how accurate it is
- Also is quite technical to set up an event. Some people are not very experienced with technology
 - It is much easier on paper with Purple Pen and a traditional map
- Is a level of admin needed, too. Only certain people have rights to do this.

9. Other Mapping Topics

a) The availability of the most recent TVOC maps in a Dropbox location to be centrally available as an archive or library was suggested.

ACTION CARRIED OVER: Neville to raise with John Farren

ACTION CARRIED OVER: Robin to consider how this could be done as Dropbox had limited free storage
Robin is still considering.

b) The availability of Chiltern AONB LIDAR data (Mark Thompson)

Andrew Chalmers has attended one formal training session to use this software. He plans to determine whether some sort of arrangement can be arrived at when he attends a second training session.

No feedback has been heard on this.

ACTION: John to contact Mark and Andrew for feedback

Bob thinks that we really should pursue this so that we can access it. Our areas are included. And at high resolution. This is work that has been completed. It was a National Lottery funded project.

At this point the data is not allowed out of the organisation.

10. Officers Reports

a) Chairman:

Nothing further

b) Treasurer:

Nothing further

c) Secretary:

Noting further

d) Captain:

Noting reported

e) Membership Secretary:

No new members.

Have tidied up the Mailchimp list and removed people who have not renewed. Now are 253 people on this list, of which 191 are subscribers and receive the e-News. We have had three new subscribers since April 22nd.



11. SCOA Report (Jon Wheatcroft)

SCOA colour-coded scheme is being revamped to include more of the popular colours.

SCOA needs a new SCOA treasurer

The Chair asked again for clubs to consider how to spend surplus JK money of £15k. The following suggestions have come from SCOA:

- Junior development
- Attracting young adults
- Capital equipment
- Regional development officer
- Regional publicity officer
 - TVOC have been very successful here. Is this a good use of that money? Publicity via Facebook acknowledged as key.
 - Allocate a certain amount per club for this? But you need the expertise, too.
- Overseas student supporting clubs

Other suggestions have included:

- Setting up extended events over a week (or more) to encourage a return to orienteering
- Funding a regional wide upgrade to a touch-less punching system
- To assist with clubs restarting orienteering (e.g. to purchase more credit card readers)

Does anyone want to put a costed bid to put any of these ideas forward to SCOA? Or come up with another idea.

ACTIONS:

- Jon offered to take this back to SCOA Chair to support clubs to facilitate.
- Jon W also to contact the Taylors to see if they would have a need for funding junior development.

12. Situations Vacant or Becoming Vacant

Role	Previous Holder	Comments
Team Leader, Registration and Results	Alun Jones	Still no progress on finding someone to take this post on. For now, the Registration team are agreeing amongst themselves who is taking a lead for the team for each event.
Chairman	Currently Nev Baker	Required to stand down at next AGM

13. Any Other Business

14. Date of next meeting:

Next Club Meeting was confirmed as 8pm on Tuesday 21st July 2020. However, location (at The Merry Bells, Wheatley, elsewhere, or online) to be confirmed.



APPENDIX 1: Future Events

Changes and additions since the previous meeting are shown in red.

2020

- a) **EVENT POSTPONED, NEW DATE NEEDED:** Wycombe Abbey, Keep Hill and Deangarden (Sunday 19th April 2020 confirmed., Level C) **Organiser:** Sue Jones / Neville Baker. **Planner:** Nat Skidmore. **Controller:** Freya Askham. **Mapper:** Jegor

Permission has been obtained by Chiltern rangers to access Keep Hill and Deangarden Woods.
Permission obtained via Sue Jones for use of the school
Parking to be in public car parks in High Wycombe. (Helpers park at school).
Start and Finish to be in school

A new date will require permission from the school. We may not get let back into the school grounds during the next academic year

ACTION: Nev to keep in contact with Sue Buxton / Ian Buxton

Map:

Map complete

- b) **EVENT POSTPONED, NEW DATE NEEDED** Abingdon South Urban Event (Sunday 28th June 2020 tbc, Level C, SEOUL?)
Organiser: tbc, **Planner:** Neville Baker, **Controller:** tbc, **Mapper:** Fiona Bunn

Nev in contact with Gary Mills about re-arranging at some point.

Map:

Already completed by Fiona Bunn

- c) **EVENT LIKELY TO BE POSTPONED** Witney. (Sunday 27th September 2020, Level C, UKUL event)

Organiser: tbc. **Planner:** Ben Green. **Controller:** tbc. **Mapper:** Martin Ricketts.

Event thought to be unlikely to go ahead in September. But we should assume it will go ahead at some point..

We have provisional permission for an Event Centre near Waitrose.

Map: Martin Ricketts is currently mapping the area. There is still much mapping work to do,

- d) Shotover (Sunday 22nd November 2020, Level C, SCOL)

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

Map:

Martin Ricketts will review.

2021



e) Options for an event on Sunday January 3rd 2021 would be considered after suggestions it might be a good 'end of Christmas/New Year holiday' event.

ACTION: Neville to consider

f) **EVENT DATE TO BE CHANGED:** Chiltern Challenge 2021 (Sunday 28th February, High Wycombe area, Level B)

The date of this event is now too close to CompassSport cup on the 14th March.

Nev has talked to Richard Sharp. Switch to May, possibly at Whiteleaf and Great Hampden. Last used in 2018. This event was very good. It was very hot in May, and courses were a bit long. Some land had been sold off (Monkton Woods). Did add some new woods. Other than that, it has not changed in size. Can you get a Black course in?

In February it is a shooting estate. Take care to go too early. But undergrowth is already high in some of the area. 2nd May is a good date? (This is a bank holiday weekend). Early May was **AGREED**.

And an Urban Event nearby by another club would be great.

ACTION: Nev to suggest 02MAY21.

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

Nettebed / Bix (preferred due to ease of parking)

Christmas Common as a possible alternative if parking is suitable

g) Hambleden (Sunday 14th March, CompassSport Cup regional round, Level B)

Organiser: tbc. **Planner:** Mark Thompson and Peter Riches. **Controller:** tbc. **Mapper:** Mark Thompson.

We have land owner permission.

ACTION: Nev to investigate level of event and Controller needed.

h) Level C forest event

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

i) Level C forest event

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

j) Urban Event:

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

2022

k) Chiltern Challenge 2021 (Sunday 27FEB22, Level B)

2023

Chiltern Challenge 2021 (Sunday 26FEB23, Level B)

l) Hambleden? (British Relay Championships with SCOA, date t.b.c.)

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

Potential clash with Tough Mudder event at Hambleden