



TVOC Club Minutes: Tuesday 18th January 2022

Meeting held online at 7:30pm.

Present: Chris Poole (Chair), John Dalton (Secretary, minutes), Martin Ricketts (Treasurer), Neville Baker (Vice-chair), Heidi Lloyd, Jon Wheatcroft, Bob Beresford, Pattie Beresford, Jim Prowting, Robin Bishop, Ben Green, Richard Sharp, Janusz Holender, Tom Venn, Andrew Chalmers

Apologies for absence: Nat Skidmore, Marie-Anne Fischer (joined meeting later)

1. Matters Arising from previous Club Meeting

a) Coaching in TVOC (Chris Poole)

There is a new coaching set up being organised by Liz Yeadon for SCOA. This will include provision of training for coaches. Dates to be confirmed.

Simon Kippin is trying to put on another juniors training event for SCOA, hopefully opened up to other club juniors.

Alun Jones is trying to obtain permission to use Common Wood for coaching purposes. Chris Poole is trying to obtain permission for junior training at Bradenham.

b) Junior Programme

The Taylors provided additional information about their proposed use of funds for coaching that they have won from SCOA. **SEE APPENDIX 2 BELOW FOR FULL DETAILS**

c) Return to Merry Bells for Club Meetings (Chris Poole)

It was **AGREED** that the next meeting (15MAR22) will be held on-line. The following meeting (17MAY22) may become a face-to-face meeting. However, attendees at this meeting were very happy to continue with remote meetings indefinitely.

John Dalton explained that he will be stopping work in just over a month, and is therefore expecting to lose access to his company's Microsoft Teams environment. A different on-line facility for the March meeting will need to be found.

ACTIONS:

- BOF does have access to a GoToMeetings environment. Chris Poole to explore this
- Robin Bishop said he might be able to set up remote meetings in the future.

d) Clothing (Heidi)

Orders placed have now arrived and been paid for. We have already sold out of Medium Jackets.

e) First Aid Courses (Chris and Marie-Anne)

Simon and Chris have completed their First Aid courses. Cost to be covered by SCOA and TVOC.

Marie-Anne is still looking for a course that she can attend.

2. Recent Club Successes

a) 2021 UK Orienteering League

The following won their age classes:

- John Thompson, M85
- Jenny Thompson, W80
- Jim Prowting, M75
- Heidi Lloyd, W40



b) South of England Orienteering Urban League (SEOUL)

The following won their age classes:

- Louisa Lloyd, W12-
- Joel Taylor, M16-
- Jim Prowting, Hypervet Men 75+

c) Club Champion Trophies

It wasn't clear whether these should have been given out at the AGM.

ACTION: Chris Pool to check

3. Past Events

a) Shotover, 50th anniversary event (Sunday 19th December 2021)

Excellent event by all accounts.

There has been a lessons learnt report written.

The handling of the Safety Control after the finish did present a problem. This was down to the layout of the Finish, and this is being improved.

Alun Jones subsequently reported that one woman parked in the wrong car park, found the Start, ran, finished, and went straight back to her car without going to Download. This meant she was treated as missing, significantly delaying the breakdown of the event. But when the safety control was interrogated, it showed she had finished – so the safety control was extremely valuable.

Jon Wheatcroft is trying to find someone to take over responsibility for the Finish.

4. Future Events:

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 1 FOR FULL DETAILS OF ALL EVENTS CURRENTLY PLANNED

5. Saturday Series (Neville Baker)

a) Recent Events

The Penn event went ahead and seemed to be successful. We had one very late finisher. A reasonable surplus was made. However, we really needed an extra toilet at a cost of over £80.

The Bradenham event went well. No real issues on the day. Slight problems with a clash with path work taking place the same day. Some people did try and finish, leaving the funnel without punching on the Check control in order to take family photos. This was handled immediately by the Finish person. Lots of happy people finishing, which is great. We still need to pay for parking (approx. £100).

b) Future fees for the Saturday Series.

A proposal was mentioned in a recent copy of e-News, repeated in the Agenda for this meeting.

Penn did make a surplus. If we also pay for access to woods, need extra toilets, and pay for parking, this all impacts on the surplus from such events. We may even start to make losses from Saturday Series events where costs are high. Indeed, Bradenham will make a small loss once parking has been paid for. It was noted that events have to make a surplus in order to cover the purchase of other general services and equipment (such as re-batterying of SIACs, paying annual fees to SCOA, mapping expenses, new SI equipment etc.)

We also incur costs for pre-entries. Each entry **transaction** (not each individual entry) with Fabian4 costs £0.90p. A volunteer, with a discounted run, is still paying £0.90 per transaction.



Should we give helpers a free run? The general feeling is that, with small surpluses, we should not discount helpers further. It was agreed that we will NOT give helpers free runs at the Saturday Series, but instead charge half the usual fee.

It was asked whether an alternative approach could be found to take entries other than Fabian4 that cost less. The convenience of using Fabian4 was emphasised.

Some club members have raised concerns about the entry fees going up as proposed. Some figures proposed by others were debated.

A comparison with free Parkrun was raised. However, it was noted that Parkrun benefits from major sponsorship, which we do not.

It was thought that a lot of experienced Saturday Series orienteers are currently able to enter a subsidised event that is primarily aimed at newcomers. It was therefore suggested that the entry fees be put up only for adults running the courses designed for experienced orienteers (e.g. Red, Light Green and Green).

Another problem highlighted was the problem getting Saturday Series entrants to enter Sunday events. Cost is cited as one reason for this, with Level C events and above being more expensive than Saturday Series events given the extra infrastructure costs incurred at larger events.

The following were **AGREED**:

- We would charge half the usual entry fee for helpers
- Would leave prices **UNCHANGED** for White, Yellow, and Orange courses
- For a period, we will **INCREASE** prices for adults as proposed for Red, Light Green and Green courses. The success of this policy is to be reviewed at a subsequent club meeting

The Fees will therefore be as follows:

Fee Structure	Courses	New Fees	
		Pre-entry	Late Entry **
British Orienteering Adults and Family groups	R, LG, G	£6.00 (Helpers £3)	£7.00 (Helpers £3.50)
	W*, Y, O	£5.00 (Helpers £2.50)	£6.00 (Helpers £3)
Non-British Orienteering Adults and Families	R, LG, G	£8.00	£9.00
	W*, Y, O	£7.00	£8.00
Juniors	All Courses	£2.00	£3.00
SI dibber hire		£1.00	£1.00

* If planned

** Entry after Sunday prior to event

Concerns were raised about the attractiveness of an event with no manual EOD. Having no EOD is much easier for the club: there are no registration staff needs, no map issue, less help needed etc. However, a concern was raised about not allowing manual EOD. This is not an issue for people who regularly orienteer. But pre-entry is likely to be a barrier to newcomers. It was noted that Alun Jones can (and does) set events up that allow pre-entry through Fabian4 on the morning of the event itself. However, the need to use Fabian4 may still act as a barrier.

This is likely to become more of a problem as Covid starts to drop away again and we seek to get more newcomers in. Using Fabian4 is agreed as being difficult for the uninitiated, despite the help available via our web site..

c) Programme of Events

A programme of dates has been prepared by Neville. These are dates that don't clash with other TVOC events or major events.

The following dates are provisionally proposed for Saturday Series events. Updates since last meeting in **red**. Note that these dates may change:



2022

- 19MAR22, Brill, Heidi running this. **Mark Thompson has updated this map.**
- 30APR22 Wittenham Clumps,
 - This is the week after the Chiltern Challenge.
 - Planned by Carys Sharp.
 - This is also a Bank Holiday weekend. Note that there are no other events on this weekend.
 - This might be very popular, with potential problems parking. We might need a lower entry limit.
 - Official limit is 40 vehicles. We can squeeze 75 in if really necessary.
 - There is the possibility of using an overflow parking.
 - 150 entrants means about 100 cars normally
 - Expect the event to be pre-entry only
- 14MAY22
- 25JUN22
- 09JUL22
- 20AUG22
- 15OCT22. Coombe Hill. Confirmed. Andrew Chalmers. Got permission.
- 19NOV22. Chesham Bois?

ACTION: Neville Baker to continue to coordinate the series.

d) String Course and White Courses at Saturday Series

Ben talked about the amount of effort that organising String Course needs, for very little uptake.

It was **AGREED** that we will no longer set up String courses.

However, if we don't have a String Course, it was proposed that we should put on a course designed for youngsters to enjoy who are under 6. This should be a course with lots of controls, with stream crossings, fallen trees etc. but not too long. (The Yellow can be too long at some areas. Particularly if there is a long walk to the Start). Youngsters must go around the new course with their family. But the course should be designed with specific interest to this age group.

It was also suggested that we stop planning White courses at least at Saturday Series events. This has already been the case on some events. They rarely have a big entry. The Yellow course is probably the obvious course for youngsters aged 7 or 8 who are old enough to start navigating courses on their own.

This new course could be called an "Adventure" or "Family Fun" course.

Such a course would be outside British Orienteering guidelines. Do we need to check what British Orienteering's standpoint might be? It was noted that there is nothing to stop parents taking children around Black TD5 courses today.

It was **AGREED**, pending feedback from British Orienteering that we would try this at Brill, being planned by Heidi.

ACTIONS:

- Ben offered to talk to British Orienteering about this idea.
- Heidi offered to try this at Brill

6. Summer Series 2022 (Chris Poole)

Chris provided the following information about the series.

PFA the proposed dates for Summer Series this year. The only events booked are at Bradenham, which I will org, land permission is given. Sunset times are provided too. The request is now for organiser for the other dates.

Tue	24-May		Bradenham	Summer (set 2139)
Tue	31-May			Summer (set 2149)



Tue	07-Jun			Summer (set 2158)
Tue	14-Jun			Summer (set 2203)
Tue	21-Jun			Summer (set 2206)
Sat	25-Jun	D		Sat Series
Tue	28-Jun			Summer (set 2206)
Tue	05-Jul			Summer (set 2203)
Sat	09-Jul	D		Sat Series
Tue	12-Jul		Bradenham	Summer (set 2157)
Tue	19-Jul		Club Meeting?	
Wed	20-Jul			Summer (set 2147)
Tue	26-Jul			Summer (set 2139)

It was suggested that a range of different type of events be planned (woodland, urban / street etc.) The Summer Series format can be whatever the Planner would like!

ACTIONS:

- Chris to seek planners.
- Neville to log events with British Orienteering

7. Oxford Street Series (OSS) (Robin Bishop)

Covid has continued to be a problem. We were planning to restart in October. Nev has two events prepared for when we are ready to start. Ben is close to having one event prepared. Nick and Laura (in Botley) have one lined up, too.

Robin proposes that we restart in March, pending Covid and finding appropriate venues.

It was proposed that events be set up to be run through MapRun so that we can encourage use of MapRun. But ideally it allows self-timing, and use of MapRun.

ACTION: Ben offered to update the MapRun details for the OSS.

8. 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.

b) Kingswood

Bob is creating a new base map using OCAD, ISOM 2017-2 and the BotP LiDAR, only using Jegor's old map where necessary. The base map will be passed to Robin to progress to a final map.

c) Penn.

There has been a lot of felling. The map needs updating. But we are not due to use the area for a while.

d) LiDAR

Jim wants to run a lecture session to assist the club with interpretation and use of the use of LiDAR. Jim has prepared a session for club members and mappers based on his experience with Wendover.



Could this be done before the next live club meeting? Perhaps to start at 6:30 or 6:45 prior to a club meeting.

ACTION: This will be set up before the next live club meeting, potentially 17MAY22.

9. Officers Reports

a) Chairman:

Nothing further

b) Treasurer:

- Shotover will provide a surplus of about £1,500. Still some payments to make
- Spent quite a lot on non-event items this year. SI kit, OCAD and a BADO refund for a faulty EMIT kit, and clothing
- So far are about £1,500 down for the year, but this matches the extra equipment we have purchased
- Penn Surplus was about £170. Toilets and Fabian4 costs do make the Saturday Series more costly
- Martin proposed that the Saturday Series be limited by the number of hire SI cards, NOT the total entry. Is this possible? We had about 8 on the waiting list for Bradenham. But these were all experienced orienteers.

UPDATE FROM ALUN: We have already requested this enhancement from Fabian4. However due to other priorities within Fabian4, this facility is unlikely to be available for a considerable time.

- We have sufficient in the bank to manage the club's finances effectively

c) Secretary:

- John will be away for the next meeting in March. He will try to find a volunteer minute-taker.

d) Captain:

Nothing to report

10. SCOA Report (Jon Wheatcroft)

SCOA has three posts that urgently need to be filled. Can you help to fill one of these posts?

- **Ambassador for the Orienteering Foundation**
 - Raises awareness of the Foundation
 - Encourages people to contribute to the Foundation
 - Encourages suitable requests for funding from the Foundation
- SCOA are responsible for organising the **2023 British Orienteering Championships**. These championships need an overall **Coordinator**
 - There is a mentor in Di Smith from Southampton
- SCOA Could not put on the VHI last year. SEOA stepped in to run these at the last minute. SEOA were due to hold the Senior Home Internationals over a weekend in 2022 (this year). SCOA are now hosting these. Southampton OC will now run the Individual with their November Classic. The relay will be the day before the November Classic.
 - The relay needs an **experienced Relay Planner**

Can anyone volunteer for any of these roles? Or does anyone know of someone who can be do this (inside, or outside the club)? If so, please contact Jon Wheatcroft.

11. 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. No change.
Team Leader, Finish	Bill Child	Is there anyone on the Finish team that could take this over? UPDATE: Jon Wheatcroft is trying to find someone to fulfil this role.



Team Leader, Volunteer Pool		Neville suggested a team as a "Volunteer Pool" (with a Team Leader) who will not be needed at every event. That can be deployed for Road Crossings, perhaps Finish etc. Perhaps to include the current Finish team? New members to be allocated to the "Volunteer Pool" team? Nev believes that this is a good idea. Different events have different requirements. Having a people who can be allocated to where needed would be welcome. The Finish team could be provided from here when needed. This situation is continuing as-is for now. Neville is considering.
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12. Any Other Business

a) Bucks Big "O" Scouting event, Saturday 12th March at Wendover Woods (John Dalton)
John Dalton usually helps at this event by putting out controls, monitoring courses, and collecting controls with Planner Roger Williams (formally of SMOC). This event has not run for a couple of years, and is running on March 12th. John would be very grateful if someone from TVOC were happy to help at this event in his absence as a one-off. Please contact John if you are able to help.

b) Radio event (Robin Bishop)

Robin would like to put on a Radio event at the Chiltern Challenge this year. The meeting had no objections to this.

c) Cost jump for families moving from Saturday Series to Level C events (Peter Riches via Chris Poole)

Is there any way we can think to make this financial jump easier?

The club could not think of any obvious way to do this, with each running individually. The existing process of cheaper entries for W, Y and O courses at Level C events was all we could offer.

13. Date of next meeting:

Confirmed to be at **7:30pm** on Tuesday 15th March 2022. Location of this meeting will be **on-line** and not at The Merry Bells, Wheatley.

APPENDIX 1: Future Events

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

2022

Neville reported the following updated list of events being proposed for 2022:

a) Hodgemoor (Sunday 20FEB22, Regional, Level C)

Organiser: Neville Baker. **Planner:** Julian Birkinshaw. **Controller:** David Frampton, HH. **Mapper:** Julian Birkinshaw

Car parking has been found.

Map:

Already complete

Julian Birkinshaw has been knocked off his bike, with a broken shoulder and hip replacement. We might need help to support Julian putting controls out and supporting him on the day.

Entries are open. No toilets or First Aid booked yet.



b) Chiltern Challenge 2022, Whiteleaf and Great Hampden (Sunday 24APR22, National, Level B)
Organiser: Colin Duckworth. **Planner:** Roger Thetford with assistance from Ian Hylton. **Controller:** Gordon Parker, SLOW. **Mapper:** Mark Thomson, Bob and Pattie Beresford

At the CC 2018 in May, busses were £800 for the coaches. The school hire was £1.50 per car. Plus £100 to use the school toilets. Tom was charged £50 to attend.

Colin Duckworth is stepping in as Organiser. Least risky solution for car parking is to bus people up from the Princes Risborough School. We should aim to put on a good event.

Map:

The whole map is being resurveyed for the event using the BotP LiDAR data. Mark and Bob/Pattie are working within the constraints of the shooting season ending early February, but good progress is being made. There has been a lot of felling and this is not proving to be a quick job.

ACTION: John Dalton to share information with Colin Duckworth about school and busses from 2018.
ACTION COMPLETE

c) Abingdon Urban (Sunday 11SEP22, Regional, Level C?)
Organiser: tbc. **Planner:** tbc. **Controller:** tbc. **Mapper:** Fiona Bunn

Still nothing else happening with this event at the moment.

Map:

Already complete

d) Deangarden, Keep Hill and Wycombe Abbey School (Sunday 18DEC22 tbc., Regional, Level C?)

Organiser: Sue and Ian Buxton tbc. **Planner:** Nat Skidmore tbc. **Controller:** tbc. **Mapper:** Julian Birkinshaw

Neville to contact Sue to discuss possibility of permission.

Map:

Julian Birkinshaw to remap with new Lidar data, health permitting. He also has the new base map from Bob to get started.

2023

ACTION: Neville to start developing more of a programme for this year

e) Wendover. Chiltern Challenge 2023 (Sunday 26FEB23, Level B)

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

This event date and location now confirmed.

Permission has not been obtained.

ACTION: Jim to contact the local team to start seeking permission. Central permission / license will also be needed.

Map:

Jim Prowting

f) British Individual Championships, Saturday 25MAR23

It should be expected that TVOC helpers will be called on for this event.

g) Hambleden (British Relay Championships with SCOA, Sunday 26th March 2023.)

Organiser: Neville Baker. **Planners:** Mark Thompson and Peter Riches. **Controller:** Michael Chopping, RAFO. **Mapper:** Mark Thompson/John Farren.



We have landowner permission, with a contract in place with SCOA.

John Dalton offered to do all the landowner liaison work.

Map:

Mark is starting to consider this remap, which will be a significant revision to use new LiDAR data.

APPENDIX 2: Junior Update from Paul and Joel Taylor

Please could you mention at the TVOC meeting the following information from Joel and me, in relation to the Bid for Funding from SCOA JK19 Surplus for TVOC Junior Development.

Recap of Purpose of Bid:

To attract, encourage & coach junior newcomers.

Two strands to the 3-year plan:

1. Launching a TVOC Youth League in conjunction with the TVOC 'Saturday Series' of monthly local-level events to attract junior newcomers and encourage existing juniors.
2. Creating a TVOC Junior Coaching Team to enable the development of juniors from White to Orange course standard.

As you will appreciate, the implementation of both strands has been delayed by the COVID-19 situation, but below is a summary of the current position.

Thames Valley Orienteering Youth League:

- Joel has been planning the format for the Youth League, which would be based on the results from the TVOC Saturday Series events; and he would now like to take this forward as part of the plans for the 2022 Saturday Series.
- The competition would run for a calendar year, so that juniors kept the same age class throughout.
- It would include all juniors who participate in the Saturday Series events (M/W10 to M/W18 inclusive; not just TVOC members) on White, Yellow, Orange, Red, Light Green and Green courses (where offered for a particular event).
- The league points given to each participant would be calculated against the clock, not their position relative to other juniors.
- For each age class on each course, there would be a target time per km (straight line distance); and then based on an individual's time to complete the course, they would receive 100 league points for achieving the target time, or get 1 point more per 3% quicker than the target time, or 1 point fewer per 3% slower than the target time.
- Each Saturday Series area/location would be classified on a scale of 1 to 5 for the complexity of the area (based on terrain, path network etc) and a 'complexity coefficient' would be included in the target time calculation, so as not to disadvantage the league points available from more difficult areas.
- A participant's best points scored from half of the annual events would count towards their overall league score. Male and Female participants with the highest overall scores for each age category would be the winners at the end of the year.
- We are proposing that points are allocated if participants are shadowed, or run in pairs, on White and Yellow courses only.
- We would like to have a page on the TVOC website, that links in to the Saturday Series page, to explain the League and publicise the scores and keep them up-to-date.
- We can discuss prizes/certificates closer to the end of the year.

Junior coaching:

- Heidi Lloyd has said that she is interested in being trained as a junior coach. Simon Kippin has passed on her details to Liz Yeadon, to be included in consideration for training courses via SCOA.
- Simon has also been in contact with James Askew (TVOC member with two kids), who asked for more details about what being a coach would entail.



- It would be useful for an "Introduction to Coaching" workshop or similar to take place (maybe at a regional level), that those who are interested could attend, or maybe they could go along to a SCOA Junior Squad training session to see what takes place.
- We are in the process of arranging a day for interested SCOA juniors aged 14+ to undertake the British Orienteering Young Leader Award (planning in conjunction with SOC).

An updated timing plan for the above bid elements has still to be submitted to SCOA in order to receive the funding, but we have not yet spent any money!