



TVOC Club Meeting: Minutes- Tuesday 15th July 2025

Meeting held online at 7:30pm.

Present: Peter Riches (Chair), John Dalton (Secretary, Minutes), Janusz Holender (Treasurer), Chris Poole (Vice-Chair), Neville Baker, Paul Eaton,

Apologies for absence: Pattie Beresford, Bob Beresford, Jon Wheatcroft, Adam Poole

1. Matters Arising from previous Club Meeting

- a) Retirees from Orienteering (John Dalton):
John Dalton worked with Mike Shires to produce an appropriate graphical design in recognition of Martin Ricketts' support for the club over many years. A revised document has now been printed in its final form. **ACTION:** Peter Riches will have the document framed and presented to Martin.
- b) Identifying new Coaches (Peter Riches)
Given that there are currently no obvious candidates to become coaches, **ITEM TO BE REMOVED FROM FUTURE AGENDAS**
- c) Octavian Droobers (OD) grant for appointment of a Development Officer (Peter Riches)
TVOC are considering application for grant money to employ a Development Officer to support the development of the club.
ACTION: Peter to consider further with Paul Eaton
- d) Review of TVOC Safety Plan (Peter Riches)
John has now updated the Safety Plan Search and Rescue document after feedback from it's use at the Chiltern Challenge.
ACTION: John will make the document available for future Organisers.
- e) Update on maintenance of POC at Oxford University Parks (John Dalton)
OUOC have now ordered new wooden posts, a new set of control plates, and are planning to upgrade the POC over the summer. This will include adding a number of new control sites. John Dalton will assist in this project. Ben Green has continued to provide input to OUOC.

At the previous meeting, it was suggested that TVOC make a donation of £250 to OUOC to help fund this POC upgrade. A formal proposal at this meeting was made to make this £250 donation.

PROPOSER: John Dalton

SECONDER: Chris Poole

This proposal was **AGREED** unanimously

ACTION: John Dalton to continue liaison with Harry at OUOC.

- f) Matters Arising from the Mapping Working Group (Bob Beresford)
Bob provided the following input:
 - **Wantage** Urban: Map further updated by Bob after recent visits by the Controller – hopefully not many more changes, but the map is in good shape.
 - **Shotover:** Map being completely revised by Rosie and is well underway.
 - **Oxford:** Map to be updated by OUOC for the City Race and Universities relay event (Brookes Campus) next year. We will have access to the maps when done.
 - **Cotteslowe:** Ben is completely revising the map for the Sat Series next year.
 - **RAF Halton:** Robin is ready to start mapping using updated base map when we can get access.
 - Other maps for Sat series have been updated by Bob/Rosie/Mark/Andrew (**Hill End; Waddesdon; Brill; Wittenham Clumps; Deangarden**)



2. Proposal that a revised TVOC Grants and Awards Policy be agreed (Peter Riches)

Peter commented that he has now simplified the wording of this policy. Peter has removed a number of unnecessary caveats in the previous version. Key is to encourage people who would like to make a request for funding from the club to do so. Such requests can then be considered as they are received.

It was proposed that this latest draft be adopted by the club:

PROPOSER: Peter Riches

SECONDER: Chris Poole

This proposal was **AGREED** unanimously

See Appendix 1 below for the revised policy. Please also see item **9) SCOA** below for information about a related discussion happening within SCOA.

3. Recent Club Successes (Paul Taylor)

Well done to all 15 juniors who competed in the recent **Yvette Baker Trophy final**. The TVOC Junior Squad managed to do something that has eluded them in the last two years – they beat the all-conquering SYO (South Yorkshire)! Unfortunately, they were beaten by WAOC (West Anglia), HH (Hertfordshire) and SO (Southdowns), ending up 4th (by one point) from SO in 3rd place.

Particular congratulations for the best TVOC placing of the day goes to Jacob Deremble who won the Yellow Boys category; with Freddy Smith coming third in the Orange Boys category and Matvei Dnestrovskii coming third in the Light Green Boys category. Our youngest competitor was Ada Shaw, who was born in 2017; and the oldest was Nathan Taylor, along with his friends from school, Freddy and Toby, who are all top-year M18s.

Thank you to all the juniors who participated; and to parents who brought them along and supported the team.

In addition, the meeting wanted to thank the impressive efforts of the Taylor family in coordinating yet another TVOC junior success.

4. Juniors Update (Paul Taylor)

No further updates.

5. Past Events

a) Saturday Series, University Parks, 14JUN25

Another good Saturday Series event was reported.

b) Saturday Series, Wittenham Clumps, 12JUL25

Peter Riches commented on how impressed he was with the TVOC team in their efforts to run a successful Saturday Series event in the face of excessive heat early in the day at Wittenham Clumps. This was the first event planned and organised by Alex Shaw (supported by Controller Ben Green). The decision and process to bring forward start times, and to reduce the effect of the heat worked very well indeed. A large group of Scouts, Cubs and Beavers was handled well. The club is very appreciative of all the helpers who turned up despite the heat. Thank you.

Paul Eaton asked whether we should have an extreme weather policy that included specific recommendations on dealing with very high temperatures. Chris Poole commented that the temperature is not the only issue to consider, and that any policy has flexibility to handle a variety of different conditions (e.g. high humidity, full sunshine etc.). The Organiser needs to retain an ability to decide what actions to take under a particular situation.

ACTION: Chris Poole to ask Jon Wheatcroft for his input prior to further discussion at the next meeting



c) Summer Series of events

This series continues to go well, and is being well-supported. We seem to have been quite successful in finding Planners/Organisers to run a good series of events.

Paul Eaton commented that an idea to consider in the future is to hold street events on Tuesdays, and forest events on Wednesdays. Concern was expressed about running evening events on Wednesdays where they clash with the Army events on the same day.

6. Event Diary for 2025, 2026 and into 2027:

See the TVOC web site for all events being publicised by TVOC:

<https://tvoc.org.uk/events/>

See the following new document for a list of all TVOC events planned:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yE9dOTLr5WVte8rTLBBYlaKaPkAhkG57SiN7TguBd2s/edit?usp=sharing>

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

a) General Comments about management of Event Diary (Peter Riches)

Peter discussed the following changes he plans to make to enhance the development of the club's event diary.

Peter is planning to ask the current Mapping Group to assume an additional responsibility of planning a rolling event diary.

In the future, the Event and Mapping Group will provide a proposed diary of events into the forthcoming years. This proposed event diary will be reviewed and discussed at club meetings, and then be signed off by those meetings. An online spreadsheet, available to all club members, will document the agreed event diary. This spreadsheet will be regularly updated by Chris Poole and Alun Jones.

This approach will serve several purposes. It will share responsibility to a wider group to plan the event diary. It will allow events to be planned further in the future than we currently achieve. And it will ensure our planned event diary is accurately documented and visible to all club members.

The Mapping and Events group is due shortly to meet for the first time with its new responsibilities. If anyone has any comments, please pass them to Peter directly.

b) Chiltern Challenge 2026 (Christmas Common)

Forestry England have been unable to give us permission to orienteer in their woods at this time. However, the NT have granted us access to some neighbouring woods they own. The problem of limited car parking space remains.

As a result, it this event may become a Level C event, and may therefore not be badged as the Chiltern Challenge.

c) Chiltern Challenge 2027, Nettlebed (John Dalton).

UPDATES FROM JOHN:

- John (supported by Neville Baker and Roger Thetford) have continued to explore other car park locations in the area. However, no obvious alternatives have been identified
- John has started to explore bussing as an option. So far, he has obtained permission for the following two car park options:
 - Hambleden Estate, for a fee
 - SAS UK HQ at Medmenham. Further away from Nettlebed, but FOC. Hard standing for over 350 cars



- John has contacted the developers of the Sue Ryder home to determine whether there might be parking available there. Despite emailing, and writing a formal letter, no reply has yet been received.

7. Treasurer's Report (Janusz Holender)

Janusz reported that he continues to be very happy about the state of the club's finances. There are no concerns.

8. Other Officers' Reports

- a) Chairman:
Nothing further to add
- b) Secretary:
Nothing further to add
- c) Captain:
Nothing reported
- d) Development Officer:
Paul Eaton reported the following:
 - Paul continues to be focused largely on the Summer Series of events.
 - Paul is also trying to talk to as many people as possible at Saturday Series of events. Particularly people he doesn't already know.
 - Paul is trying to identify what people need to be encouraged to progress from a Summer Series event or a Saturday Series event to enter our Level C or B events. A key motivator for this seems to be talking to newcomers AFTER each event, to conduct a debrief with them, and discuss what events they might enter next.
 - Paul commented that we need to refresh our supply of high-vis "Can I Help" vests.
ACTION: Neville Baker to order more vests
- Paul commented that much of our First Aid kit contents needed refreshing. It was **AGREED** that we should bin the old First Aid Kit and buy a brand new one.
ACTION: Neville Baker to order a new First Aid Kit.
- e) Clothing Officer:
Nothing reported

9. SCOA (Peter Riches)

Peter highlighted the following discussion that has been ongoing at SCOA meetings:

There has been a debate within SCOA of how best to support those athletes representing their country, membership of national squads and taking part in training camps.

SCOA would like clubs to consider a joint funding model, with contributions by the athlete, the athlete's club and SCOA. This would be offered when athletes request funding contributions towards national training camps, cost of national squad fees and national representation.

SCOA have requested feedback by September's SCOA meeting, with a view for implementation in 2026.

Peter explained that SCOA were suggesting the cost of any national representation be shared 1/3 by SCOA, 1/3 by the person's club, and 1/3 by the individual themselves.

Peter then invited further discussion. The comments provided were:

- This proposed system doesn't seem at all flexible or be able to take different circumstances into account.
- It would be better to enable different circumstances to be taken into account in offering such support, offering the most appropriate support depending on the circumstances of the competitor and the activity they have been selected for
- Any such system should be able to take account of the specific circumstances of the individual. Some individuals might need more support than others. Some events might



require a far greater outlay than others. These differing circumstances should be taken into account when offering support

- It's a concern if SCOA is, in practice, able to commit TVOC to expenditure that TVOC might not always have the funds to cover
- A more flexible, case-by-case approach would be preferable

10. Any Other Business

a) Charity Event (Peter Riches)

Peter would like the club to consider running a charity event in 2026. Specifically, can we run an event (perhaps an urban event) where the surplus is donated to charity? This would be a generous thing for the club to do. And it might help generate some additional interest in the event if we promote the charitable element.

TO DISCUSS AT NEXT MEETING

b) Frequency of Club Meetings (Peter Riches)

Could the frequency of club meetings be reduced to quarterly? The current meetings are completed in about an hour. Could meetings be held quarterly? And held on Thursdays instead of Tuesdays?

TO DISCUSS AT NEXT MEETING

c) Promotion of orienteering at future urban events

The JK seemed to miss an opportunity to promote orienteering to the general public during the Sprint event held in the centre of Sheffield over Easter. There was no effort to explain to the public what was happening, or obtain the public's interest to try orienteering.

It was proposed that, at future urban events, we consider allocating a few club members to explain to the public what is going on, and perhaps encourage them to have a go.

It was **AGREED** that we should do this at an urban event in 2026.

d) MOD Site Security Breaches (Chris Poole)

Chris raised his concerns that recent well-publicised security breaches at MOD sites in the UK might result in a tightening of access to military areas and parking. This might impact our ability to obtain permission to access areas like Halton and Bradenham / Park Wood.

e) Christmas event and social (Paul Eaton)

Paul suggested we consider an annual club night. Perhaps a Christmas event. With a street event followed by a pub dinner. Something easy to organise. Perhaps with a mass start. This would work in Thame, for example.

TO DISCUSS AT NEXT MEETING

f) Web Site for Thames Valley Summer Series (TVSS) / Oxford Street Series (Chris Poole)

Chris commented that the web site set up is confusing, and contains circular links for these two series. In fact, they are currently running as a single Summer Series of events.

It was argued that there should be a single landing put for next year's event. Any event in the summer should be badged as part of the TVSS, whether it's a urban or a forest event. This was **PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION NEXT YEAR.**

Date of next meeting:

Meeting confirmed as 7:30pm on Tuesday 16th September 2025

The meeting will be online. Login to be provided later.

Note that the meeting is open to all TVOC members.



APPENDIX 1: REVISED TVOC Grants and Awards Policy (Peter Riches)

TVOC Grants and Awards Policy

This policy outlines the process for club members to apply for a grant or award from TVOC. Each case is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. This outline in no way commits the club to provide support.

TVOC members who have been first claim members of the club for a continuous period of at least 12 months may claim for grants towards representation at national or international level, courses and training.

Note that TVOC's policy on grants is dependent on TVOC continuing to have a healthy financial position. This policy can be changed, without notice, at any time.

Representation for National Teams

Juniors representing National teams in a major competition are eligible for a grant from SCOA and this should always be the first application made.

In respect of junior members, there is no annual cap as there is for senior members. The club would expect a commitment to club events before and after any grant is awarded.

If a senior member of TVOC is selected to represent a National Team for a major competition they may claim for the costs they will incur (less any grant from SCOA) up to a maximum of £250 per year. In exchange, they need to contribute to the club in all of the following ways:

1. competing for TVOC.
2. planning, organising, mapping or coaching
3. writing an article on their experiences for e-News

Junior Training camps and courses

Junior members may well be invited to training camps or courses and the club would consider applications for assistance in the same way, always on a case by case basis.

Courses and Conferences

If you represent TVOC at an recognised event, you will be entitled to claim back your expenses. This should be agreed with the club beforehand, so that the value to the club of your attendance can be agreed.

There may, in addition, be exceptional circumstances of hardship where the Club would consider offering support for athletes representing their country.

To apply for funding please email: chairman@tvoc.org.uk