



TVOC Club Meeting: Minutes - Tuesday 16th September 2025

Meeting held online at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies for absence: Bob Beresford, Pattie Beresford, Alun Jones, Paul Taylor, Neville Baker, Adam Poole, Robin Bishop

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. Peter Riches has now had the document framed and presented to Martin. This was warmly received by Martin, and reported in a recent e-Newsletter. **ACTION COMPLETE**

b) 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. Peter and Paul Eaton continue to discuss. Paul suggests that a club Development Plan be drafted before any grant applications are considered.

ACTIONS:

- Paul Eaton will look at other club Development Plans for input
- John Dalton will share with Paul the TVOC club development activities that took place approximately 10 years ago

c) Review of TVOC Safety Plan (Peter Riches)

John has updated the Safety Plan Search and Rescue document after feedback from it's use at the Chiltern Challenge. This is now available as a Word document from the TVOC web site for future Organisers to use and adapt. **ACTION COMPLETE**

d) Update on maintenance of POC at Oxford University Parks (John Dalton)

John reported on the joint OUOC/TVOC activities that resulted in a total replacement (with several new control posts) of the POC. This was reported in a recent e-News. **ACTION COMPLETE**

e) Equipment (John Dalton)

- In a previous meeting, Paul Eaton commented that we need to refresh our supply of high-vis "Can I Help" vests. **ACTION:** Paul Eaton to Liaise with Neville Baker to order more vests
- In a previous meeting, 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 CARRIED OVER:** Neville Baker to order a new First Aid Kit.
- It was noted during this meeting that we have lost two SI Units. **ACTION:** John Dalton to liaise with Neville Baker about their replacement
- It was **AGREED** that we should purchase additional feather banners and SI Start Stations to facilitate two starts. This will be necessary at the Chiltern Challenge next year. **ACTION:** John Dalton to liaise with Neville

2. TVOC 2026 Club Membership Fees

The current fees are: Adult - £1. Junior – Free. Family - £2.

Alun Jones commented that there is no reason for them to go up. We don't need the money this would generate, and the fees cannot really go down, so leave as-is. The Treasurer agreed.

It was **PROPOSED** that the TVOC Membership Fees for 2026 remain unchanged:

Proposer: John Dalton

Seconder: Jon Wheatcroft



This was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

ACTION: John Dalton to complete annual Club Return to British Orienteering.

3. 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.

Peter said the following:

- With input from Mike Shires as Publicity Officer, this might help to lift our profile as a club
- It is worthy to get involved with a local charity
- This could help to promote the club's activities to a new group of people
- We are, in essence, a community sports club, and we should be putting something back into the community
- Putting on an event with a charitable outcome might enable the attraction of more sponsors

Peter confirmed that it would be an event's surplus that would be donated. An urban event would be more appropriate. Given the support of the local council in Thame, this might be the most sensible location.

ACTION: Peter will confirm which event we should associate with a charity.

4. 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?

Peter has obtained input from several club members about this suggestion. Peter now agrees with the general consensus. It was therefore **AGREED** that **NO CHANGE** will be made to TVOC meeting frequency or days. They will continue to be held online at 19:30 on the third Tuesday of every other month, starting each year in January.

5. Christmas event and social (Paul Eaton)

Paul Eaton previously suggested we consider an annual club might. 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.

The meeting continued to be very positive about this idea. The success of the last AGM, associated with a similar event in Thame, was cited as one reason to progress. Ideal dates might be a weekday evening, early December or late November, or possibly January (if avoiding other TVOC events).

ACTION: Paul Eaton to seek an Organiser/Planner.

6. Nominations for 2025 British Orienteering Awards

TVOC made two nominations for BO awards for 2024. Bob Beresford was awarded the Bonington award for mapping. Mark Thompson was nominated for the prestigious Silva award, but lost out to Ian Cooper from SYO.

- Who (if anyone) from TVOC should be nominated for a BO award for 2025?
- Which BO award should they be nominated for?
- Who can put the necessary effort in place to write and submit the nominations?

Some possible nominations were mentioned for possible future consideration.

7. Recent Club Successes

- Tom Dobra: Selection for World TrailO Championships 2025 held in August
- Scottish Six Days competition:
 - Jenny Thompson: Winner of W85, winning every single day
 - TVOC Juniors: Some very creditable performances put in



- Nigel Bunn: Winner of M60L
- Alun Jones: Selection for Wales at forthcoming Veteran Home International event (VHI)
- Robin Bishop: Recently competed in 22nd IARU ARDF World Radio Orienteering Championships (2025)

8. Juniors Update (Paul Taylor)

Paul provided the following report:

- This year's Junior League has now had 7 events in conjunction with the TVOC Saturday Series, with over 50 juniors participating across these events. Ten juniors have competed in 4 or more events (with 9 out of these 10 being TVOC members). At the other extreme, 30 juniors have only competed in one event, with the majority not being TVOC members, although a handful are from other clubs. Assuming that the Oct, Nov & Dec Saturday Series events take place, there will be a total of 10 events in this year's Junior League (with each participant's best 5 counting towards their points tally for the League Standings).
- With Joel and Nathan now both being at university (Joel in Bath for his third year and Nathan in Guildford for his first), Paul is moving out of the area. By the end of this month, Paul will have moved to Birmingham, although he will still be working in Reading and staying there mid-week. He is planning to remain a TVOC member, at least while he's still coordinating the Junior Squad [see next point], and will still be going to TVOC events when he can.
- Paul is going to remain as TVOC Junior Squad Coordinator for the moment, but he's been speaking to Ben Green about the role. Ben is willing to consider taking over when Robin, his younger son, is mostly doing courses on his own (potentially in 12/15/18 months' time), assuming that both his boys remain keen on orienteering (which they currently are). Ben would also be keen to see if there is anyone else who might be willing to share some of the responsibility. Ben and Paul will discuss this further in due course.

The meeting wanted to convey its grateful thanks to all the Taylors for the outstanding efforts they have put into this very successful programme over the recent years. Thank you.

9. Past Events

a) Saturday Series, Waddesdon, 13SEP25

An excellent event Planned/Organised by Dave Gruar. Feedback at the finish was excellent. We had a number of large groups of juniors entering. All had a good time. Mike Shires provided some flyers that were given out to promote our future events.

b) Summer Series of events

The final event of the series was in Jericho last week. It attracted 46 or 47 entries, despite being very wet.

Overall, the series consisted of 17 events, and has attracted 210 different individuals. Some feedback is being collected and collated from entrants.

The meeting wished to thank Ben Green for his efforts in putting together what must be one of the most successful Summer Series of events in recent years.

ACTION: Paul Eaton will write an article for eNews.

10. 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) Updates about future management of Event Diary (Peter Riches)

Peter has asked the Mapping Group to assume an additional responsibility of planning a rolling event diary for at least three years.

In the future, the Event and Mapping Group (now renamed the Mapping and Event Planning Group – MEPG) will provide a proposed diary of events into the forthcoming years. This group consists of Bob Beresford, Mark Thompson, Neville Baker and Paul Eaton. The proposed event diary will be reviewed and discussed at club meetings, and then be signed off by those meetings. A 3-year horizon is sought for Level B events. A 2-year horizon for level C events. The online spreadsheet (see link above), 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.

Alun Jones has drafted a document in consultation with the MEPG setting out the process (different for different level of event) from initial proposal through to handing over to the event officials. This process should help to ensure that landowner permissions are obtained early enough for mapping to be accomplished in a timely manner. This spreadsheet can be viewed at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/j5uslg0d4ztzuqd4k698u/TVOC-Event-Diary-process-table-F2509.docx?rlkey=8o17ewc70xqdlfht4trveuto&dl=0>

The MEPG has recently met for the first time with its new responsibilities. The list of forthcoming TVOC events (link above) reflects their conclusions at the first meeting. Alun Jones has produced a note listing current concerns – see Appendix below. This list of concerns has been updated as a result of discussion at the meeting.

Bob Beresford commented that he and Alun Jones have been in discussion about combining the MEPG document and the events spreadsheet, so that it works for both groups.

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 Planner of the event will be Neville Baker. He is committing that the event will be a Level B event, and therefore will be a Chiltern Challenge.

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

John summarised the current position regarding this event:

- We have Landowner permission to use the Nettlebed Estate
- We have landowner permission to use the neighbouring Bix estate. This part of the area has not been orienteered on for many years now
- Despite exhaustive work by Neville Baker and Roger Thetford, we have been unable to find any nearby location for car parking. Permission was declined for one location on the basis that the field is always wet, and will also be cropped in the spring that year
- The CuldenFaw Estate will let us park on the Hambleden Estate for a fee
- John's former employer, SAS in Medmenham, have offered to provide hard standing car parking. This would be free of charge. However, this location is further from the event than Hambleden
- John has explored the cost of bussing
- The Treasurer and the Chair have agreed that the event would be economically viable with bussing
- 4 busses were proposed. Not 3.

It was therefore **AGREED** that this event should go ahead despite the likely need for bussing.



11. Treasurer's Report (Janusz Holender)

Janusz continued to report that he still had no major concerns about the status of the club's finances. Both the Summer Series, and Saturday Series are performing precisely as expected and planned in terms of surpluses made.

12. Other Officers' Reports

a) Chairman:

- Pleased to report more Planners offering to plan events
- Has had an excellent response to the Planning and Controlling courses being proposed
- **ACTION:** Peter Riches to talk to Katy Stubbs to confirm dates

b) Secretary: Nothing further

c) Captain: Nothing reported

d) Development Officer:

- Paul has been talking to Carys Sharp at OUOC about combining efforts to run an Oxford-based street series of events during term time during the winter
- OUOC are taking responsibility for the Parkrun volunteers at Oxford University Parks at the end of October. The aim is to increase the profile of OUOC among the students running at the ParkRun.
- Harry has handed over Presidential responsibilities to someone else. TVOC should look to foster a good relationship with the incoming President
- Our compasses for lending out at events have seen better days. **ACTION:** Paul to order new compasses as replacements
- We need some replacement Helper gilets. **ACTION:** Paul to order

e) Clothing Officer: Rachel Banham is stepping in as Clothing Officer on an interim basis

13. SCOA (Peter Riches)

Peter previously 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.

Peter provided the following update from the September SCOA meeting (also attended by Chris Poole). SCOA is still proposing a 1/3-1/3-1/3 split between SCOA, the person's club, and the person themselves. However, they are suggesting that clubs have flexibility in this. Further details are awaited.

Peter also reported that the JK 2029 will be held in the SCOA region. Possible areas are being considered.

14. Any Other Business

a) TVOC Event entry fees (Peter Riches)

An email discussion about future event entry fees has been going on behind the scenes. A suggestion had been made to increase some fees. It was **AGREED** that no changes will be made to event entry fees.

Entry fees will next be reviewed in time for the new financial year, starting 1st April.

b) High Temperature / Heat policy (Paul Eaton)

Paul noted that the IOF have just published a new, interim, policy on the running of events when the ambient temperature is high. This is for events with expected winning times over 20 minutes to protect participants from dangerous weather conditions. This policy uses the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT), a measure of heat stress including temperature, humidity, solar exposure, and wind. The policy



recommends postponing or cancelling events when WBGT exceeds 30-32°C, with a permanent policy to be established for 2026.

c) 2025-26 AGM (Peter Riches)

We need to start thinking about a date, location and an associated event for our next AGM in the May / June 2026 period.

Date of next meeting:

Meeting to be confirmed as 7:30pm on Tuesday 18th November 2025

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

Note that the meeting is open to all TVOC members.



Appendix

TVOC future event planning

The event diary process (see attached note) has only just been formulated, so it will take some months for activity to match the timescales set out in that document. However the Mapping and Event Planning Group met last week and made great strides forward.

The TVOC Planning Fixtures list (accessible using [this link](#)) has areas which need resolving shaded in pink. The main issues are also listed below.

Updates at the meeting in **red**.

Level B

- a) CC26 – no controller appointed yet. **IN HAND BY PETER RICHES**
- b) CC27 – car park issues means we are likely to require bussing, no planner or controller. **SEE ABOVE FOR FULL DETAILS**
- c) CC28 – likely to be February, exact date to be proposed, no officials yet

Level C

- 1. RAF Halton Sept 26 – potential major question mark over permission. **Chris Poole reported that permission has not yet been granted for the Saturday Series in November. In addition, the per-person levy is very significant. The Saturday Series in November has now been postponed. Chesham is a possible replacement. This situation may indicate potential issues with the September 2026 event.**
- 2. Level Cs are thin on the ground in 2026, with Common Wood in January, RAF Halton in September and Witney Urban in November. **Shotover was considered as a potential event location. This would be a test for Rosie Walklin's new map of the area. However, the location is now lined up for a Saturday Series instead.**

Saturday Series

- RAF Halton 15/11/25 – do we have permission yet? **See above regarding postponement of this event**
- Hopefully some more planners will come forward to fill the remaining gaps in 2026. **One gap only now remaining.**