



TVOC Club Meeting: Minutes

Tuesday 18th November 2025

Meeting held online at 7:30pm.

Present: Peter Riches (Chair), John Dalton (Secretary, Minutes), Janusz Holender (Treasurer), Chris Poole (Vice-Chair), Neville Baker, Robin Bishop, Pattie Beresford, Bob Beresford, Paul Eaton, Jon Wheatcroft

Apologies for absence: Alun Jones

1. Matters Arising from previous Club Meeting

- a) Octavian Droobers (OD) grant for appointment of a Development Officer (Peter Riches)

ACTIONS:

- Paul Eaton will look at other club Development Plans for input into any TVOC Plan
- John Dalton will share with Paul the TVOC club development activities that took place approximately 10 years ago. **ACTION COMPLETE**

ITEM PUT ON BACK BURNER FOR NOW

- b) Equipment Refreshment (John Dalton)

- In a previous meeting, Paul Eaton commented that we need to refresh our supply of high-vis "Can I Help" vests.
UPDATE: Paul Eaton has been in Liaison with Neville Baker. The club does seem to have enough vests in different places.
ACTION: Neville Baker to count up the total number of "Can I Help" vests
- In a previous meeting, Paul commented that much of our First Aid kit contents needed refreshing and it was agreed to purchase a new First Aid Kit.
ACTION: Neville Baker to review Use-By-Dates for all items in First Aid Kit.
- It was noted during the previous meeting that we have lost two SI Units.
UPDATE: John Dalton did liaise with Neville Baker about their replacement.
ACTION: This responsibility has now been picked up by Robin Bishop and is in hand
- It was **AGREED** that we should purchase additional feather banners and SI Start Stations to facilitate two starts. This will be necessary at both the Penn event in January, and at the Chiltern Challenge next year.
UPDATE: John Dalton did liaise with Neville Baker.
ACTION: This responsibility has now been picked up by Robin Bishop and is in hand
- Our compasses for lending out at events have seen better days.
UPDATE: Paul has purchased new compasses as replacements
ACTION: Paul and Peter Riches to throw out old compasses

- a) Charity Event (Peter Riches)

Peter would like the club to consider running a charity event in 2026. A charitable donation could be made during the event itself. An urban event would be more appropriate. Given the support of the local council in Thame, this might be the most sensible location.

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

- b) Christmas event and social (Paul Eaton)

Paul Eaton previously suggested we consider an annual club night.

UPDATE: Paul Eaton has explored with the pub in Thame. Paul will aim to coordinate a date after Christmas.

- c) TVOC 2026 Club Membership Fees

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

ACTION COMPLETE



d) 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.

ACTION: Peter Riches and John Dalton to progress

e) Summer Series of events

ACTION: Paul Eaton will write an article for eNews.

ACTION COMPLETE

f) Planning and Controlling Courses:

Six attended the Planning course. Two will attend the Controllers Course to be held on 7th December

g) 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.

ACTION: Peter to discuss with 2026 Summer Series Coordinator when appointed

2. Recent Club Successes

SE Night Championships, Binton Woods, 15NOV25

- Matvei Dnestrovskii (M14) won the Green course outright
- Matvei would have been M16 Champion had he been eligible for a medal

3. Juniors Update (Paul Taylor)

No update at this meeting

4. Past Events

a) Wantage Urban event, 27SEP25

- The event was well-run and enjoyable
- This event was held on a Saturday. This seemed to result in a significantly lower-than-expected entry
- As a result, (once a charity donation has been made), the event will make a small loss
- The map was highly regarded (mapped by Bob Beresford)
- Jon Wheatcroft commented that the area would be very good for a two-part sprint event

b) OUOC Parkrun / orienteering taster at University Parks, 25OCT25

- A good turnout of TVOC helpers to support OUOC
- The weather was poor on the day. This meant that Parkrunners wanted to head back home or to their cars after their run
- As a result, take-up of the taster event was low
- OUOC did, however, seem to encourage some student runners to consider orienteering

c) Saturday Series, Chesham Bois, 15NOV25

- This was a model Saturday Series event
- Thanks to Mike Wright for Planning/Organising an excellent event
- Many youngsters were present. This included some Scouts who had attended the recent Bucks Big O event
- The meeting wanted to give special thanks to **John Thompson**, who travelled a long distance to help at the event, helped early on the Start, and was still there helping to clear up at the end of the event.



5. 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>

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

a) Any concerns or comments about the current TVOC Event Diary?

Peter reiterated the feedback he was after regarding the planned Event Diary:

- Are people happy with the number of events planned?
- Are people happy with the type and spread of events?

It was acknowledged that it is proving difficult to obtain landowner permission, and car parking space for as many forest events as we might want. Ash die back is one reason for Landowner permission being denied. As a result, gaps in the calendar are being filled with Urban events.

Please give additional feedback directly to Peter Riches.

b) Feedback from Mapping and Event Planning Group (Peter Riches)

Peter is trying to bring on new Planners for future Level C events.

Nothing further to report

c) Update on status of Mapping (Bob Bersford)

Recent past events – Hill End, Brill, Chesham Bois and Waddesdon maps were updated.

Future events 2025 –

Deangarden and Keep Hill updated for 29th Nov event,
Brill will need a quick update for the December event.

Future events 2026

Level B/C –

4Jan26: Common Wood updated, quick check for Penn to be done shortly.
22Mar26: Christmas Common – new NT area added. Update required after end of shooting season.
27Sep26: RAF Halton awaiting permission and remap – may not happen?
8Nov26: Witney/Cogges being extended – desktop at present.

Sat series –

21Feb26: Park Wood update in Jan26
11Apr26: Shotover – In progress, review in Jan 26

9May26: Cutteslowe – in progress

13Jun26: Uniparks – map updated together with new permanent course
11Jul26: Oxford Brookes – OUOC updating for Uni event in Feb 26, then we can have it.

Future events 2027

21Mar27: Nettlebed remap to start at end of shooting season 2026

Urban Events 2027/28 –



We have Urban events in the plan for 2027/28. It has been suggested that they are moved from Sunday to the Saturday and have a forest event on the Sunday.

I'm not in favour of switching the Urbans to Saturday:

- We had the Wantage event on a Saturday and only got 60% of the expected turnout.
- We spent many hours creating a new map for not much benefit.
- The town centres are very busy on a Saturday compared to a Sunday.
- We are struggling for forest events with parking on a Sunday, and adding 2 more doesn't help.
- The MEPG came up with the plan and it would be nice to stick to it, and they should be involved in changes.

6. Treasurer's Report (Janusz Holender)

Janusz explained that the club needs to make around £5-6k surplus from its events to fund the overall costs that the club incurs (e.g. software, affiliations, insurance, equipment (SI, computing, two new, light, lithium ion batteries to replace the very heavy lead acid ones etc.)).

The Summer Series is expected to break even.

The Saturday Series is designed to introduce newcomers into the sport, and does not aim to make a surplus. A consistent entry fee structure is in place for the Saturday Series of events. Costs and Income from the Saturday Series can be quite variable, event-on-event.

Note that the club is in the process of changing its financial year. This year is therefore a "long" year, making year-on-year comparisons difficult.

Our finances are sound. There are no concerns.

Janusz' slides are included below:

TVOC financial summary
Nov 2025



Janusz Holender

This year

Larger expenditures this financial year (not directly our event related):

- Software (OCAD, MapRun and OpenOrienteeringMap) - £1524
- BO/SCOA affiliation - £579
- Internet - £330
- Insurance - £442
- SI kit - £248
- Club kit - £178
- Flags - £306
- Juniors - £226
- Training - £836
- Mapping - £456
- Barclays have started charging us monthly fee – about £100 per year
- Grants £450
- Equipment (flags, batteries, compasses)- £742

Income:

- K#Kit hire £800
- Events surplus about £6119, see next slide

Events financial summary – 24/26

Event	Cat	Seniors eqv	Income	Cost	Surplus	Surplus pp
Thame	C	243	3496	1476	2020	8.31
Hodgemoor	C	273	3554	2210	1344	4.92
Combe Hills South	D	94	561	512	49	0.53
Chesham Bois	D	72.67	490	418	72	0.99
Combe Hill North	D	92.67	744	387	357	3.86
Kingswood	D	82.33	524	616	-92	-1.11
Hill End	D	74.66	617	758	-141	-1.89
Hambleton	B	458.67	7397	5328	2069	4.51
Cuttleslowe Park	D	100	685	584	101	1.01
University parks	D	86.33	646	516	130	1.51
Wittenham Clumps	D	74.66	488	549	-63	-0.84
Summer Series	D	732	2203	2254	-52	-0.07
Waddesdon Manor	D	118.67	714	610	204	1.72
Wantage	C	142.66	1595	1626	-31	-0.22
TOTAL					6119	

Current status

- Good financial position, with 2 large events before the end of our (extended) financial year we should be close to breaking even
- Summer series – almost broke even
- Saturday series – small surplus, huge variability (as expected)
- Good surplus generated from 3 large events this financial year – slightly better than the forecast
- Wantage – low numbers – small loss
- Cash:
 - Current account - £4515
 - Deposit account - £12771

Please submit your expenses in timely manner so we have good visibility of our current finances



7. Other Officers' Reports

a) Chairman:

Peter wanted to mention explicitly his gratitude for the support a wide range of different club members provide him as Chair. Thank you.

b) Secretary:

John Dalton and Paul Eaton summarised our experiences in supporting the Bucks Big O in October. Thanks again to everyone from the club who helped. Paul and Hannah talked to Scout leaders and parents on the day. They issued TVOC flyers made by Mike Shires about future TVOC events. The general feeling was that courses were too tough for the youngsters entering. Scouting do want longer courses than traditional shorter orienteering courses. But the Technical Difficulty of those courses seems to high for a large proportion of entrants.

Peter Riches has written to the Organiser make two suggestions:

- Introduce electronic punching to the event
- Involve a qualified Controller to oversee the orienteering being offered

c) Captain:

The Club Championships will be competed for at the BKO event at Black Park on Sunday 14th December. Details are available from eNews.

d) Development Officer:

Paul commented that scouting organisers an annual camp on the Penn Estate. There may be a request to introduce orienteering at this camp.

Paul (and Peter) continue to try and spend significant time talking to entrants at the Saturday Series of events. This includes debriefing entrants after their run. We believe that engaging as much as possible with newcomers increases their likelihood of returning.

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

Rachel now has all the club's clothing.

8. SCOA (Peter Riches)

Nothing to report. The next SCOA meeting is next week.

9. Any Other Business

a) Structure of Entry Fees (Peter Riches, Alun Jones and John Dalton)

Peter introduced this item by explaining that some questions had arisen about our event entry fee structure for Level C and Level B events. For example:

- With British Orienteering offering a young person's membership, should we reflect that offer in our event entry structure?
- Could we do anything to offer family entry fees? Many new orienteers get involved through either a school, or with their families. It can be expensive for a family of four to run four individual courses.

Rather than make piecemeal changes to the pricing structure, Peter set up a small working group (led by Alun Jones) to explore this, and other possible changes to our pricing structure.

A discussion was had during the meeting about the problems a high number of late entries causes when estimating map numbers for printing. Robin reported that something like 40-50% of entries can come in during week before an event, after maps had been ordered. People can delay entry due to a poor weather forecast, or not knowing what their youngsters want to do. These late entries can results in a lot of map wastage, or refused entries because maps have run out. The club is therefore trying an increase late entry fee of £3 per entry for a six-month period to see if this helps increase the proportion of early entries.

ACTION: Robin Bishop offered to do a further analysis of our entries data.

The working party met recently. A note has been written following the working party's review. Please see the Appendix below for this note.



All feedback and comments directly to Peter Riches.

b) Coaching (Chris Poole)

Chris is planning to introduce some coaching sessions associated with the Saturday Series of events when the weather improves in the spring.

c) Entry Fees at forthcoming Windmill Hill and Frith event (Peter Richers)

It was noted that entry fees seem quite high for this event (compared to our own). This can be explained by changes to the land access fees being charged by the MOD land agents. Our RAF Halton event will be similarly affected.

d) Membership Renewal for 2026 (Marie-Anne Fischer)

Please could members renew their BO and TVOC memberships promptly for the new year.

Date of next meeting:

Meeting confirmed as 7:30pm on Tuesday 20th January 2026

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

Note that the meeting is open to all TVOC members.



APPENDIX

STRUCTURE OF ENTRY FEES

This note has been written following the review by the working party into the current structure of event fees.

Summary and recommendations

The working party's key points and recommendations are:

1. The current structure of prices is reasonably logical, if a little complex. And we are comfortable with the relative values of the various charges, apart for point 2.
2. The move to a £3 fee uplift after the first closing date is quite severe, so it will be important to review the results carefully in mid 2026
3. For level C events and above, the late entry fee for Seniors on White, Yellow and Orange courses, currently NIL, should be increased to £3. In compensation, the normal fee should be reduced by £1.
4. Whilst we have some sympathy for an 'under 26' discount, we are concerned at the added complexity in fee structure it would cause. On balance, we do not consider it worth offering unless it is offered by a wide range of other clubs
5. We are very sympathetic towards offering a 'family discount', giving a reduced price where two adults and two children (or one adult and one child) from the same address enter an event. However, administering such an arrangement is beyond the capabilities of the SiEntries system. It would require a family to enter as normal, flag up that they were eligible for a discount, and then for the entries secretary then to review and initiate a refund. Our view is that this all feels too complex to be worth pursuing.

Robin Bishop

John Dalton

Janusz Holender

Alun Jones

17th November 2025



STRUCTURE OF ENTRY FEES

Brief for working party

The working party was asked to look at the overall structure of our event fees in the light of recent suggestions to make the following changes:

- offer a 'family' discount giving a reduced price where two adults and two children from the same address all enter an event
- increase late entry supplement for Saturday Series to £3, in response to problems with map numbers because of large volumes of late entrants
- offer an 'under 26' discount, as a small number of other clubs do (and as British Orienteering does for membership fees)

The working party has considered solely the structure of fees. It has not considered the overall level of fees, nor what costs it is reasonable that an event's fees should support.

Guidelines for entry fees

In considering the structure of entry fees, we have taken into account that:

1. Our fee structure should be kept simple where possible, so it can be described easily and succinctly, and administered simply. It is already quite complex.
2. Any changes must be capable of being handled (easily) by SiEntries. Note though that SiEntries is quite flexible, and they have a team of experts who can set up more complex requirements for us. But there are limits to what the system can support.

We also recognise the merits of the current approach to the level of entry fees, where the Treasurer makes recommendations for the actual entry fees on at least an annual basis. This saves a diligent Organiser from needing to produce a detailed budget, and allows good consistency of fees across our events (Though for Level C and B events, we may vary the price if we are aware of a particularly large costs affecting one event, eg high land access costs or bussing costs). We should not change this principle.

We note that, all other things being equal, a discounted entry fee for one class of entrant will lead to higher fees for all other entrants. (The only real exception to this is where the discount results in increased numbers entering.)

We have also been sensitive to the preference to keep newcomer prices down, whilst trying to minimise the hire level of entry fees when newcomers transition to Level C (and B) events.



Current entry fees

Our current (from 1 January 2026) fees are as follows

Saturday Series

	BOF seniors	Non BOF seniors	Juniors/students
Longer courses	£6	£8	£2
WYO courses and Score	£5	£7	£2
Uplift for late entry	+£3	+£3	+£1.50
SIAC hire	£1	£1	£1

Family groups treated as individual entry; extra maps +£1

Level C

	BOF seniors	Non BOF seniors	Juniors/students
Longer courses	£12	£14	£4
WYO courses	£8	£8	£4
Uplift for late entry	+£3 (nil on WYO)	+£3 (nil on WYO)	+£1.50
SIAC hire	£2	£2	£2

Level B

	BOF seniors	Non BOF seniors	Juniors/students
Longer courses	£14	£16	£5
WYO courses	£8	£8	£5
Uplift for late entry	+£3 (nil on WYO)	+£3 (nil on WYO)	+£1.50
SIAC hire	£2	£2	£2

Note that Chiltern Challenge 2025 charged the following, as a result of the higher than usual land access fees for Hambleden.

	BOF seniors	Non BOF seniors	Juniors/students
Longer courses	£16	£18	£6
WYO courses	£10	£10	£6
Uplift for late entry	+£2 (nil on WYO)	+£2 (nil on WYO)	+£1
SIAC hire	£2	£2	£2



Methodology

The simplest structure would be a single entry fee, where every entry (run) pays the same price whether that is a solo, pair, group, junior, senior, member, non-member, ...

This would be very simple to describe and to administer. However this is not common practice amongst orienteering clubs. They generally have price differences based on information provided at the time of entry.

We considered the various differentiators which could be taken into account in the charging structure and considered each one in turn. The italics set out our conclusions for each differentiator

1. **SIAC hire**, binary, tick box, extra cost.

Agreed stay as is, so £2 for level C and above, £1 for Saturday Series.

2. **Extra maps**, Number, extra cost per Number

Agreed stay as is, with extra maps charged at £1 (which is not far off the cost price – single sheet A4 is about 80p, double sided A4 about £1.20).

3. **BOF membership**, binary, cost difference.

Agreed stay as is, so £2 extra for senior non-members, no uplift for juniors.

4. **SCOA membership**, binary, cost difference.

Agreed stay as is (no extra for non-SCOA members)

5. **TVOC membership**, binary, cost difference.

Agreed stay as is (no extra for non-TVOC members)

6. **Age Classification based on orienteering year**, typically binary, Junior/Senior, though could also have separate price for 21-25 year olds, over 65s, etc

Agreed juniors stay as is, so substantially cheaper than seniors – around 1/3rd of the senior price.

Some sympathy for charging 21 to 25 year olds a reduced price, to smooth out the big leap to senior prices. But it is an added complexity – SiEntries can cope but it makes the description of the pricing structure more complex. Agreed to stay as is (no discount for 21 to 25s).

Over 65s. Agreed to stay as is (no discount).

7. **Student**, binary, tick box, cost difference, self determined

Agree stay as is, with students treated as juniors

8. **unemployed/low income/retired**, binary, tick box, cost difference

Agree stay as is, with no concessions for these categories of entrants. Changing would add complexity to pricing structure, and would have to be self determined with no practical means of checking.

9. **Course**, multi-class, cost difference.

Agreed stay as is, offering a reduction for seniors on shorter simpler courses. For Saturday Series, this is just £1 less., as prices are already quite low. For level C and above the reduction is more substantial, so that the price for a short course is more in line with (but still more than) a Saturday Series.



10. Entry date, typically binary, by first closing date/late - though could have multiple dates
There are significant problems with map number determination, especially on Saturday Series events where over 50% of entries have been after the first closing date. This results in the risks of either

- under-ordering so running out of maps and disappointing potential entrants, or
- over-ordering maps. Whilst there is a cost to that, the environmental impact is perhaps more important; the maps cannot be recycled as the paper has a plastic coating.

Agree stay as is, so (as of 1/1/26) £3 uplift for entry in the final week before the event.

The working party felt this was a large step-up for late entries – we would have recommended £2. But let's see what impact the £3 figure has and review in mid 2026.

The working party propose that, for level C events and above, the late entry fee for Seniors on White, Yellow and Orange courses, currently NIL, be increased to £3. In compensation, the normal fee should be reduced by £1.

11. Family group going round together as one entry, binary, tick box, cost difference

Agree stay as is, with family groups charged the senior rate, with £1 extra for each extra map.

Noted that there are practical difficulties with SiEntries; families can enter as a junior and be charged the junior rate.

12. 'Family' discount giving a reduced price where adults and children from the same address all enter an event

We have sympathy for offering some sort of concession, as a family with all members orienteering will be more likely to continue with the sport, to help, etc. And at a level C event, we could be talking of a total entry fee of some £40 for a family of four, and more again for level B. We would like to offer something like a free junior entry when associated with an adult entry (and two for two adults).

However, administering such an arrangement is beyond the capabilities of the SiEntries system.

The only way this could be made to work would be:

- *a family would enter as normal at standard prices,*
- *they would then contact the entries secretary to say that they were eligible for a discount,*
- *the entries secretary would then review the entry and, assuming it met the criteria, initiate a refund.*

There are some additional costs in making the refund. But the bigger concern is the complexity in explaining the process, and the manual intervention required by the entries secretary. Our view is that this all feels too complex to be worth pursuing.

As an aside to the above discussion, the Working Party also briefly considered that TVOC might want to make specific targeted marketing campaign at some stage, with some price promotion to support it. For example, we might want to offer a reduced price to parkrunners or to members of a specific athletics club or something. For information, this can be done through SiEntries by providing such individuals with a promotional code (offering say £2 off the entry price). Though we have the risk that the promotional code then gets passed on to friends etc.

END