



TVOC Club Meeting: Minutes Tuesday 17th March 2026

Meeting held online at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies for absence: Paul Taylor

1. Matters Arising from previous Club Meeting

a) Policy on DSQ at Level C events as a result of a failed SI unit (Alun Jones)

Alun raised the following question for decision after we had a failed SI unit at Common Wood. The station was, correctly, replaced as soon as the problem was reported. In the results, the control was treated as “Optional” rather than “Mandatory”, so no-one was disqualified by being unable to punch the failed control.

This raises the question as to how we should treat a failed control in the future.

- At level B, the rules require that competitors **must** provide evidence of having been at the control, normally by using the pin punch to punch the map. Boxes need to be provided on the map to be punched, and final details to state that this is what competitors must do at a failed control. The results team must then ask each competitor to show their punched map in order to be reinstated.
- At level D, we would just make the control optional.

What should our policy be at level C? Should we require the same approach as for level B?

The following was **AGREED** unanimously:

- Proposer: Peter Riches
- Seconder: Chris Poole

People who can not prove that they visited a control (for example where an SI Unit has failed) have to be **DISQUALIFIED** (as with Level B events). People can prove they have visited the control under these circumstances by punching their map using the needle punch provided for this purpose at each control.

This is because Level C events are used to calculate British Orienteering ranking points, and can also be used for some competitions and championships.

b) Club Support for Event Officials, Mappers and Helpers (Alun Jones)

Following the Common Wood event at Penn, Alun has proposed that the club confirms the arrangements in place for helpers (including event officials and mappers). The was reviewed:

Our events only happen through the hard work and determination of our event officials, mappers and event helpers. In recognition of this, TVOC provides the following:

- Level D: All helpers get a free run at that event
- Level C and Level B: All helpers get a free run at that event. In addition, at the Organiser and Treasurer’s discretion, food vouchers may be made available to helpers and event officials
- Organisers and Planners: Are offered a free run in any future TVOC event (within 12 months) in lieu of not running at the event they organised/planned
- Controllers (Level B and C): Are offered a free run in any future TVOC event (within 12 months) in lieu of not running at the event they controlled
- Mappers: Any mapper making a major update to a map is offered a free run in any future TVOC event (within 12 months) after their map has been used
- Reasonable expenses are reimbursed for Organisers, Planners, Controllers and Mappers for out-of-pocket expenses. This includes travel to the event (potentially multiple times), at the **British Orienteering TVOC** volunteer rate.



The above was **CONFIRMED** by the meeting with one change (in red above):

- Proposer: Chris Poole
- Secunder: Bob Bresford

c) Christmas event and social (Paul Eaton)

Paul Eaton previously suggested we consider an annual club night. Paul will organise this event in due course. **REMOVE FROM AGENDA.**

d) Nominations for 2025 British Orienteering Awards

One nomination has been made, revised and updated from last year's nomination. Mark Thompson has been proposed by the club for the 2025 Silva award. What is this?

In 1983 SILVA (Sweden) AB decided to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first Silva compass by establishing an annual award within each IOF member Federation. The awards were to enable Federations to honour those who have contributed in a special way to the development of orienteering. This was interpreted, within the UK, as being a person or persons who have made a very significant contribution to orienteering over a period of years, with an emphasis on 'field' activities rather than committee work.

e) 2025-26 AGM (Peter Riches)

This is likely to be in very early June at Thame, in association with a Summer event.

ACTION: Peter Riches to finalise a date in association with Ben Green.

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

Robin Bishop offered to do a further analysis of our entries data in due course to determine the effect of the increase in late entry surcharge. **REMOVE FROM AGENDA.**

g) Development Officer:

Paul Eaton provided the following proposals to the meeting.

Proposal 1: TVOC WhatsApp community group

Idea: To create a WhatsApp TVOC Community within which other more specific groups can be created to allow for specific event/interest.

An article about this will appear in eNews shortly.

Proposal 2: Autumn night series on golf courses (Golf-O!)

Idea: To have a level D weekday evening night orienteering series in Autumn (after the clocks change) on golf clubs around the Thames Valley. Night orienteering events are put on at many golf courses around the country. Hannah and Paul want permission to contact golf clubs to investigate the possibility of having the event on their grounds.

This proposal is being progressed by Paul.

In addition, Hannah Redrup is planning to provide more information about the TVOC officers and team leaders (including photographs), either through the WhatsApp Group, or eNews. This should help to ensure that all club members recognise TVOC's officers and team leaders.

h) Request from Compass Point to publicise support of their Compass Point Online service (Peter Riches)

It was previously agreed that we would mention Compass Point to our members via our web site and/or through eNews. way. Peter has now done this. **ACTION COMPLETE.**

i) John Spence proposed to become a LIFE MEMBER of TVOC (Peter Riches)

John is a very long-standing member of TVOC. His contribution to TVOC over many decades has been very significant. Unfortunately, he has had to give up orienteering. However, he still helps organise permission at Brill.



John Dalton requested that Membership Secretary, Marie-Anne Fischer assist here.
ACTION: John to confirm that this is complete with Marie-Anne.

2. Recent Club Successes

British Champions:

- John Thompson (M90)
- Jenny Tompson (W85)

Welsh Champion (Alun Jones, M70)

Nigel Bunn and Becky Carlyle, part of the winning England team at the Interland event held near Calais on the 15th March. England won by 3 points.

3. Juniors Update (Paul Taylor)

Paul is now well on the way to planning TVOC's entry for this year's inter-club Yvette Baker Trophy. Having spoken to parents over the last 2 months about availability, Paul has decided that the Junior Squad will go to the qualifying heat on Sunday 26th April at Castle Hill Country Park, Leicester, organised by LEI. We need at least 9 participants to compete in this event, to try to qualify for the national final, and we currently have 8 confirmed (including a number for whom this will be their first event competing for the Junior Squad). Paul is trying to get a few more juniors to participate, but there's still 4 weeks until the entries need to be confirmed.

Thanks to the club for agreeing to fund squad entries for this YBT qualifying round (and Final if we get through).

The meeting wished to pass on its grateful thanks to Paul Taylor for his significant efforts and successes in support of TVOC's Junior programme.

4. Past Events

- a) Saturday Series: Park Wood, 21FEB26 (with English Universities Orienteering Competition organised by OUOC)
- b) English Universities Orienteering Relay Competition at Oxford Brookes, 22FEB26 (organised by OUOC)

All the students appeared to really enjoy both events. OUOC were very grateful to the support to both events provided by TVOC members. There was a very nice feel to both events. The Saturday Series event was excellent, too. It was good to have youngsters witnessing top orienteers competing at the same event.

- c) Saturday Series: Hill End, 07MAR26

This was a very good event for newcomers, juniors, and people wanting to expand their orienteering experience, perhaps by trying a more difficult course. Although Hill End is quite an expensive location for us to use, this is understandable as it's an unfunded venue. We plan to go back to Hill End for a Saturday Series event twice a year in the future. It's a very good location for Saturday Series events.

Tim and Marissa did a very good job indeed in Planning and Organising.

- d) Oxford Street Series (Paul Eaton)

Paul reported that the OSS has gone very well through the winter. The series was a joint effort between TVOC and OUOC, led by Carys Sharp and Paul Eaton. A range of interesting formats were deployed. Around 35 people attended the most recent event. Both OUOC and TVOC have gained new members as a result of the series. Carys is keen to run a similar series next year.



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 review newly appointed Planners and Controllers for Level C events. (Level B events are reviewed by SCOA).

Peter started by commenting that the 2026 programme is now very largely complete. The Mapping and Event Planning group will focus on 2027 at their next meeting. Peter said that he has had some welcome offers of help for planning and organising.

See below that the events tabled for RAF Halton have now been cancelled through failure to get landowner permission.

a) Chiltern Challenge Sunday 22nd March 2026 (Jon Wheacraft)

Jon provided the following comments:

Everything appears to be in hand for the event. Alun Jones has been very helpful indeed in supporting Jon organise the event. We now have over 400 entries, with more coming in.

John Dalton commented previously that he had been in recent conversation with Mark Thompson and Marie-Anne Fischer about expanding the Helper pool for the Saturday Series and helpers in the TVOC Teams.

ACTION CARRIED OVER: John Dalton to progress further with Marie-Anne,

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

Please give additional feedback **DIRECTLY** to Peter Riches.

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

The work of this team has been excellent. This is really helping the club plan its future events on a sensible, three year rolling basis.

d) Update on status of Mapping (Bob Beresford)

2026 events

1. Shotover – Mapping almost completed by Rosie– Controller comments being incorporated.
2. Cutteslowe – Ben has almost completed the new map.
3. Oxford Brookes – Bob has extracted the map from the latest OUOC city map after their recent event. The legend etc has been added and sent to David Kingham – map will be on SRA4 paper.
4. Waddesdon – Map has been adjusted for latest mag North and rotation issues fixed. Andrew will redo and simplify the existing map by removing a lot of single trees.
5. Witney – Bob is continuing the desktop exercise to redo and extend the map. Draft map sent to Michael Wright.

2027 events

6. Nettlebed and Bix - Mark, Bob and Pattie are spending many hours in both areas with significant remapping being done. Bix has not been used for 15 years. John D is trying to track down the owners of the central area (58 acres owned by Halfridge House), which we would really like to use.



7. Wendover – October CSC final. Graham Gristwood is going to use the area for a squad selection race in June. Some mapping updates are being progressed by Mark, Bob and Rosie prior to this in April. There are implications for those running in the selection race as there is a 2 year embargo – but not our problem.

6. Treasurer's Report (Janusz Holender)

Janusz summarised the club's financial situation as follows:

- Our financials continue to be good
- Some events do lose some money, but this is as projected
- The Chiltern Challenge should provide a reasonable surplus
- We will be break-even for the year
- Note that this is an unusual 18-month financial year so comparisons between years will be difficult

7. Other Officers' Reports

a) Chairman:

Nothing further to add.

b) Secretary:

John reported that he will be away at the May Club Meeting, and for an early June AGM. John presents his apologies to both meetings.

c) Captain:

Nothing to add.

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

Nothing to add

8. SCOA (Peter Riches)

There was an extensive discussion about future events at the SCOA meeting.

In 2029, the JK will return to the SCOA area. Peter is part of the discussion at SCOA about what areas should be put forward for inclusion in the JK that year.

In the TVOC meeting, Hambleden (as our only large area) was discussed as a possibility if necessary. If a TVOC area is used, the meeting felt it very important to stress that the event must not be perceived as a TVOC event. TVOC should not be expected to organise and resource the event itself.

9. Any Other Business

a) Controller Course (Peter Riches)

Peter believes another Controllers Course would be helpful.

ACTION: Peter will discuss with Katy Stubbs.

b) Shotover Woods (Peter Riches)

This will be a brand new map from Rosie Walklin. We have an event at Shotover on Saturday 11th April. This is a combined Saturday Series and Level C event, Organised by Hannah Redrup.

In 2027, the area will host the British University Relay event, and an Yvette Baker Trophy heat on the same day.

c) Organiser Course (Peter Riches)

Peter believes that an Organiser Course may help support club members to feel confident taking on the role of Organiser.



Peter also intends to take the responsibility for permissions from Organisers. However, he hasn't been able to find a volunteer to take such a role on.

ACTION: Peter to progress.

Date of next meeting:

Meeting was confirmed as 7:30pm on Tuesday 19th May 2026.

Note that the following people are unable to attend this meeting:

- John Dalton
- Janusz Holender
- Pattie Beresford
- Bob Beresford

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

Note that the meeting is open to all TVOC members.