



TVOC Club Meeting:

Minutes for Tuesday 15th September 2026

Meeting held online at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies for absence: Peter Riches, Neville Baker, who was attending a family event following the death of his uncle, Tony Baker, a founder member of TVOC.

1. Matters Arising from previous Club Meeting

- a) Development Officer: Autumn night series on golf courses (Golf-O!)
This proposal is being progressed by Paul.
Ongoing
- b) Development Officer: TVOC Officers and Team Leaders
Hannah Redrup is planning to provide more information about the TVOC officers and team leaders (including photographs), either through the WhatsApp Group, or eNews.
Ongoing
- c) Controller Course (Peter Riches)
Peter believes another Controllers Course would be helpful.
ACTION: Peter will discuss with Katy Stubbs.
Carried Over
- d) Organiser Course (Peter Riches)
Peter believes that an Organiser Course may help support club members to feel confident taking on the role of Organiser.
Carried Over

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. This will be within club activity.
Carried Over
- e) Proposal - free entries for juniors for TVOC events (Alun Jones)
We want to encourage juniors to join TVOC and to come to our events. They are the future lifeblood of the sport, and we need them if we want the club to perform well at YBT and CSC matches. Juniors will also bring their parents to events, many of whom will also then contribute to the club.
Decision: Free entries for TVOC juniors at TVOC events.
Action: Robin Bishop is considering how this can be sensibly achieved.
- f) String Courses at TVOC events (Peter Riches)
Peter suggested the club should start to include String Courses again at future Level B and C events.
ACTIONS:
 - Peter Riches to raise the topic in eNews
 - To be discussed at next meeting
- g) Competitor Code of Conduct (Peter Riches)
A number of clubs ask you to sign up to following a competitor code of conduct when you enter an event. Should TVOC do the same?

The following were proposed:



1. New members should be required to acknowledge that they have read and agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct

John Dalton discussed this with Marie-Anne. John also reviewed the current "I Accept" requirements of new members joining British Orienteering. This covers several areas, including Code of Conduct. **NO FUTHER ACTION NECESSARY.**

2. Anyone entering an event should be required to acknowledge that they have read and agreed to abide by the Code of Ethics and Behaviour.

This has been implemented through the efforts of Alun Jones. **ACTION COMPLETE.**

h) Mapping of Dorney Wood Scout Camp (John Dalton)

- John Dalton has been asked to advise about mapping and setting a POC up at the Dorney Wood Scout Camp near Burnham Beeches

John has contacted BKO given the location and provided assistance to the Scout group involved. **ACTION COMPLETE**

i) Clothing Order: (Paul Eaton)

Paul proposed that the club order some V-neck full mesh O-tops for club members.

ACTION ONGOING:

- Peter Riches to discuss with Rachel Banham
- Peter Riches to contact Heidi

j) Update on plugging gaps in the TVOC teams (Peter Riches)

Peter is undertaking to encourage more of our members to become assigned into the TVOC Team structure.

John reported that Peter has started to make some good progress in this. **ACTION ONGOING.**

k) Status of TVOC Permanent Orienteering Courses (Peter Riches)

Peter wondered whether a review of the status of all our POCs was needed. All POCs are now accessed via the BO POC portal at Go Orienteering: <https://www.goorienteering.org.uk/>

ACTION CARRIED OVER: Peter will check how the TVOC web site refers to our POCs.

l) Future strategy for TVOC (Paul Eaton)

Paul has now reviewed previous strategy documents developed by the club in the past. Paul now plans to create a discussion document to be shared around the club to stimulate feedback before developing a framework for the club's future development in the next period.

Paul reported that good progress is being made. ACTION ONGOING

2. Safeguarding (Jon Wheatcroft)

Jon attended the recent SCOA meeting on behalf of Peter Riches. Significant time was spent on the requirements of clubs to develop their Safeguarding activities. These requirements are being driven by British Orienteering in association with the NSPCC. Jon reported the following from the SCOA meeting:

An enhanced safeguarding regime is being implemented through clubs. Clubs need to have a timetable that lays out how they will develop their safeguarding capabilities. Planners, Organisers (and Controllers) will be required to attend at least a 1h on-line Safeguarding course. In addition, other club members such as the Safeguarding Officer, and coaches, need to attend more substantial safeguarding training programme.

Clubs are being asked to develop a timetable to roll out the enhanced safeguarding regime.

The following suggestions were made by SCOA:

- Safeguarding should be an item that appears in every Risk Assessment
- Each event should have a nominated safeguarding lead

SCOA acknowledged the need for clubs to act pragmatically.

At the meeting, the following points were raised:



- Allocating a separate Safeguarding lead for each event will pile even more pressure onto an already-stretched volunteer group
- There are other roles in the club on top of Planners and Organisers who should also be familiar with the requirements of safeguarding. For example: those responsible for meeting and greeting newcomers to our Saturday Series events; the TVOC Team Leaders; and the TVOC Junior Team Leader / Representative.
- It will be difficult to commit to concrete dates by which everyone who should complete the Safeguarding training does so
- How will the club monitor and document those that should, and those that have been through sufficient Safeguarding training?

The following were **AGREED** at the meeting:

- TVOC produce a pragmatic timetable for rolling out the new Safeguarding regime
- Initial focus should be on Planners and Organisers for our 2027 events
- That Safeguarding appears as a standard item on each TVOC's Meeting Agenda in future
- TVOC will pay the costs of all Safeguarding training

ACTION: Chris Poole to update Peter Riches about Safeguarding requirements. **(ACTION ALREADY COMPLETE)**

John Dalton provided the following for managing our Safeguarding timetable.

Area	Suggested Action	Date
Safeguarding Training for 2027 Planners and Organisers	Create a list of all 2027 Planners and Organisers and communicate to them the need to attend the 1h Safeguarding course	At or before November TVOC Club Meeting
Safeguarding Training for other TVOC members (e.g. Saturday Series Meet and Greet team, TVOC Team Leaders, and Junior Team Leader / Representative)	TVOC to discuss and agree our future policy for this	At the November TVOC Club Meeting
Management of Safeguarding within the Club	Who and how should the club manage and document who has and has not attended the required training? For example, who will check the training status of newly-appointed Planners and Organisers? What facility do British Orienteering provide to achieve this?	To discuss at November TVOC Club Meeting
Marie-Anne is currently our Safeguarding Officer, but she will be away for much of 2027. How will Safeguarding be covered in her absence?	Appoint a stand-in Safeguarding Officer during Marie-Anne's absence	To discuss at November TVOC Club Meeting
Communicate the developing requirements for Safeguarding around the club	Find a volunteer to write an article for e-News	To discuss at November TVOC Club Meeting

3. Recent Club Successes

Lakes 5 days

- W85: 1st Place for Jenny Thompson
- M55L: 2nd Place for Tuomas Tala

4. Juniors Update (Paul Taylor)

Nothing to report



5. Past Events

a) Saturday Series, 12th September, Waddesdon

The event went down well with entrants. There were no major problems, despite a number of regular TVOC volunteers being unable to attend this event. It is a shame that the walk to the Start is so long at Waddesdon. Planner/Organiser, Julia Yeomans was very grateful for all the help provided, and how it all went.

6. Event Diary for 2026, 2027 and into 2028/29:

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

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

See the following 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).

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

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

Alun Jones provided the following updates:

Saturday Series for the next few months seem to be all heading in the right direction. And we have organisers for most of 2027 (Uni Parks in June is the exception, but I am sure someone will be persuaded) So that all looks in good shape.

Level Cs 2026/27

- SCOA Sprint Champs looks all set for 27 September. Can we encourage SCOA clubs to promote it? - no sign of much in the way of other SCOA club members entering so far.
- Witney Cogges - I have heard nothing on this so far. I will drop a note to Hannah asking her to confirm all on track. It would be good to have the web page up and entries open by the time of the SCOA Champs.
- Shotover in March 2027. Do we have a controller? If so, I've dropped the ball so please remind me who it is please.
- Hodgemoor May 2027. Still no planner or controller. Time for serious action please.
- Abingdon July 2027. No organiser or controller. Again needs serious attention. Or is this to be the 2027 SCOA Sprint Champs, and if so where?

Level B and above 2026/27

- CC2027 March Nettlebed. All officials in place, all progressing I assume.
- Bicester Urban October 2027. Ditto
- CSC Final October 2027. Ditto

2028 and onwards

- CC2028 Park Wood/Naphill/Downley - No Planner or Controller
- Christmas Common April - No officials, no permissions
- Thame Urban June - No officials, no permissions
- Wantage Urban Sept - No officials, no permissions
- Coombe Hill Nov - No officials, no permissions
- CC 2029 Penn Wood - No officials, no permissions

Bob Beresford expressed significant concerns at the time and effort he and others had done mapping a Didcot Urban southern extension, with a late decision to use only part of the Ladygrove map for a sprint event. There is also a suggestion to have a 2027 sprint at 'unmapped' Harwell Campus instead of Abingdon Urban. More recently the suggestion to use RAF Benson for a 2028



Sprint has come out of the blue. These events are being formulated outside The Mapping and Event Planning Group who had other events in the plan.

It was **AGREED** the Mapping and Events group must be informed about such impactful proposals in the future, and can say NO to such late changes when it negatively impacts on volunteer mapper efforts. Suggestions for future events and locations should, instead, be input into future event planning.

ACTION: Chris Poole to update Peter Riches about these situations. **(ACTION ALREADY COMPETE)**

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

c) Update on status of Mapping (Bob Beresford)

Bob reported the following:

- The Harwell Campus option for the 2027 Sprint event requires confirmed permission and a new map
- Otherwise, the plan for 2027 seems OK. Mark Thompspon has done a very good job to ensure a good Saturday Series of events
- In 2028 there is an intention for an Urban event in Bicester. The map will need updating and extending
- The 2028 Chiltern Challenge is intended to venture into areas not used recently (such as Hughenden).
- Mike Shires is checking that the council are happy to host an urban event in Thame in 2028.
- The Coombe Hill North and South map will be updated, with some additions in the centre
- 2029 might utilise Penn. During 2029, what areas will the JK utilise? Where will the Southern Championships be?

7. Treasurer's Report (Janusz Holender)

Janusz reported the following:

- There are no issues or concerns about TVOC's financial situation
- This is a quiet time for events and orienteering activities
- We are proceeding to re-battery the club's SI cards

8. Other Officers' Reports

- a) Chairman: Nothing to add
- b) Secretary: Nothing to add
- c) Captain: None reported
- d) Clothing Officer: None reported

9. SCOA (Peter Riches)

- a) Safeguarding
See item 2. above
- b) Use of Hambleden and Shotover as SCOA JK Areas for 2029
There was a debate about the overuse of Hambleden (8 times in 15 years for A/B events) for a long event at the JK 2029. The meeting understood that the MEPG group and other club members had also expressed these concerns.

The meeting understood that Peter Riches had (all-be-it reluctantly) to agree to seeking permission for Hambleden. But no such agreement had been made for the use of Shotover.

The meeting was unsure whether TVOC was expected to update the Hambleden map prior to the JK.

Suggestions of a Relay at Shotover was given a firm NO due to issues highlighted previously.



ACTIONS:

- Chris Poole to update Peter Riches about this discussion. **(ACTION ALREADY COMPETE)**
- Jon Wheatcroft to inform SCOA that the use of Shotover can not happen. **(ACTION ALREADY COMPETE)**

10. Any Other Business

- a) Absence of Neville and Marie-Anne for prolonged period

Due to a sabbatical, neither Nev or Marie-Anne will be on hand much of the time over the next year.

As a result, the club has a need for nominated replacements for:

- Membership Secretary
- Safeguarding Officer
- Car Park / Road Crossings / Signage Team Leader

In addition, Neville is organising to make the club's equipment available in his absence.

- b) Lack of club compasses to lend (Paul Eaton)

Paul requested he be authorised to purchase further compasses to lend out to newcomers. This was **AGREED**.

- c) Coaching of youngsters (Chris Poole)

Chris reported that he is undertaking a programme of coaching over 6 weeks for a group of youngsters. This starts on Wednesday 16th September. He plans to offer free entry to the youngsters for the following Saturday Series event.

Date of next meeting:

Meeting was confirmed to be 7:30pm on Tuesday 17th November 2026.

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

Note that the meeting is open to all TVOC members.