



## BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WELSH ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

### BUSINESS MEETING

8.30 pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015.  
Online via Google Hangout

#### MINUTES

PRESENT: Peter Ribbans, Chair

Mark Saunders, Development and Junior Squad Manager

Helena Burrows, Coaching Officer

David Pal, Fixtures Secretary

David Doherty, SBOC

Robert Griffiths, Mapping Officer

Anne May, Membership Secretary

Bob Dredge, British Orienteering

Gabriella Walsh, MWOC

1. Apologies: Amy Peltor, Roger Stein

2. Minutes of last business meeting. Passed as an accurate representation of the meeting.

3. Matters arising, not covered below

MS: not ideal to have Cwpan Y Ddraig in May – exam season. Perhaps earlier. MS will liaise with DP to sort this out. DP and MS looking at Pembrey event 1 Mar 2015. Confirmed as 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**ACTION 2014/19: Done**

To be taken back to clubs for discussion and feedback is required for the next committee meeting. Reminder that clubs have not responded to the discussion document so will be enclosed with the minutes and clubs prompted to consider.

**ACTION 2014/20: Done**

Implications of employing people to do certain jobs: PR attended a tax seminar and will write up and circulate notes on this. PR sent electronic copy of handout

**ACTION 2014/23: Done**

Courses could be advertised on website. Agreed.

**ACTION 2014/25: Done**

MS queried the £777 spent on Domestic events and the £4996 for Creditors. AP was requested to provide more information for both of these categories. Covered in Treasurers report

**ACTION 2014/27 Done**

DP requested information on venues and event types for Croeso days to fit in with UKOL. MS agreed to provide these as soon as the info was available. Provisional venues and types provided.

**ACTION 2014/29 Done**

The British champs in 2021 were discussed. A request that regions outside Wales could host on Welsh terrain was approved. DP to notify BOF.

**ACTION 2014/31 Done**

It appeared that the membership numbers had increased from the equivalent time last year, but without we didn't have 2013 figures for comparison. AM was requested to supply matching figures for 2013. Supplied

**ACTION 2014/32 Done**

Welsh 'O' tops Agreed to refund SB for those that are held in stock for veterans. Still outstanding.

**ACTION: 2014/34 AP**

Juniors to use similar Welsh 'O' tops. Liaise with SB over purchase for next year. Still outstanding.

**ACTION: 2014/35 MS**

It was felt that the priorities of funding ought to be revisited by Committee. Items to be considered: Allocation of WOA team subsidies, noting higher costs of team(s) going to Northern Ireland. Junior athlete training. Club and individual development. Volunteer development. Conferences. Ring fencing of Sport Wales funding etc. Contact AP for more details of existing budget allocation. Still to be done.

**ACTION: 2014/36 PR**

Committee to revisit and review. Discuss at next meeting and possibly beforehand by email. Dependant on 2014/36 above

**ACTION: 2014/37 ALL OFFICERS AND CLUB REPRESENTATIVES**

Outcome from this year's JK: 2/3 profits goes to BOF, but 1/3 goes to WOA. It was agreed that it could be capped to the equivalent to the WOA levy with the rest being distributed to clubs who helped, using the Croeso model. Overall WOA share is approx. £14.8k with £5.4k going to WOA and the balance split between the 4 days. PR to contact day organisers

**ACTION 2015/01: PR**

4. Reports from officers (for the period October 2014 to January 2015): (to be received **beforehand** and circulated by Chair for reading prior to meeting)

- a. Report from the Treasurer (Amy Peltor)

AP was unable to join the meeting but the report was available. MS queried the size of the reserve fund as it has grown from 4k in 2012 to nearly 18k now. Do we need that much? AM wondered about the levies to date this year. Is this due to falling event numbers or is it just that the monies are late coming in? Finally MS queries the lack of spend on International Preparation Training. Given that we have awarded monies to help athletes selected for squads and tours we would have expected this to be shown here. AP to clarify.

**ACTION 2015/02: AP**

- b. Report from the Secretary (Vacant)
- c. Report from the Fixtures Secretary (David Pal)

DP requested details of the venue for the 2016 Welsh Champs and details of additional events (Middle distance?) on the Saturday. PR stated that the Welsh Champs venue was still not confirmed but a decision was imminent. There will be an event on the Saturday also TBC. **ACTION 2014/28 SWOC**

ERYRI are unable to host the Welsh Champs in Mar 2017 because of the SHI. The 2 alternatives are that the events be held in the autumn 2017 by ERYRI in March 2018 by SBOC or March 2017 by SBOC and March 2018 by ERYRI. If it is the former then SBOC are asked to consider hosting the British Night Championships on that weekend. **Action 2014/30 SBOC/ERYRI**

DP has had an approach from the WMOA to request to use areas in Mid or North Wales for JK2018. This contact details for MWOC and ERYRI have been passed on to them.

d. Report from the Membership Secretary (Anne May).

AM reported that she was concerned about the high numbers of non renewals so far from 2014. Whilst the numbers are comparable with Feb 2014 there are still about 95 people still to renew. This figure is mainly from SBOC and SWOC. It was agreed that AM and club membership secretaries remind those who have yet to renew. **AP 2015/03 AM/Clubs**

e. Report from the Development Officer (Mark Saunders)

Match funding WOA can also match fund Club's contribution to development. Committee agreed that WOA consider supplying the club's match funding contribution when the club applies externally to local authority or Sport Wales, for example. Mark has provided a comprehensive document on development funding which was agreed. The mechanism needs to be confirmed with AP with regard to its administration. **ACTION: 2015/04 AP**

MS: Volunteers' activity weekend and run courses on particular topics as in Scotland. MS thinking of over WL weekend, bunkhouse for 2 nights, meeting spaces etc. key topics: development – GW talk about her experiences at Plas Grieg, RS to talk about Neath project of last year. Craig Antony BOF could help MS get someone from another club to hear about their dev.; possibly a planning course including purple pen; possibly training on Sl.

Ponterwyd – possibly WOA will fund 100% of the accommodation and travel.

All agreed it was a good idea; MS will investigate possible location and accommodation.

MS produced a paper with suggested topics and estimated timings but there was too much for a weekend. The weekend of 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> June was agreed as a viable date. MS and HB to revisit the options and come up with a viable programme for the weekend. **ACTION 2015/05: MS/HB**

Developing clubs in areas poorly serviced. Bridget's paper on SW Wales. BS has produced a paper but this was not available for discussion at the meeting. Mark has summarised in his Development officers report. The idea was good and in principle the WOA committee were willing to support a trial of the initiative. There were concerns that the initiative was trying to cover too large an area initially and efforts might be better focussed on a single town with a series of events. HB was concerned that all the effort could fall on BS and felt it was important to get buy in and help from the Sports Development Units. It was also agreed for an initial funding of up to £500. PR and MS to discuss with BS

**ACTION 2015/05: PR/MS/BS**

- f. Report from the Mapping Officer (Robert Griffiths) Nothing to report

RG commented how mapping had become easier over recent years with Lidar and GPS and could potentially prepare a session on this for the Volunteer Activity Day

- g. Report from the Information Officer (Roger Stein) Nothing to report
- h. Report from the Coaching Officer (Helena Burrows) – circulated to all.

Coaching Conference in Swindon in January '15 was attended by 5 coaches from Wales and proved very productive. The coaching conference will be biennial in future with regions expected to supplement this with their own initiatives. The volunteer activity day would fit the bill in this regard. 2 coaching courses are to be held at Plas Y Brenin this year (L1 in June and L2 in September). HB to inform once dates are confirmed in order that they can be added to the WOA website. **ACTION 2015/05: HB**

Reports from advisors

- a. Report from the Junior Squad Manager (Mark Saunders) Report: sent to all.

MS had just attended the BO talent and performance meeting. There is now better communication between this body and the regional junior squads which is welcomed. A mention was made of the Athlete Support Fund which Welsh athletes are entitled to apply for.

- b. Report from the Senior Squad Manager (Ed Nicholas / Lauren Ferrand) – no report
- c. Report from the Veteran Squad Manager (Sophie Brown) – no report
- d. Report from Schools Liaison officer (Bridget Stein) – nothing received.

## 5. News from British Orienteering

RD had little to report. The new BO offices were now up and running which has reduced the Federations running costs. The funding review for 2017 is commencing and BO would welcome feedback on that when available. Finally the national awards are being considered shortly so if anyone has a club or individual that they feel should be considered as a candidate can they let RD know.

## 6. Any other business –

- a. Orienteer and Volunteer of the year 2014.

RS had suggested that Kris Jones be nominated for Orienteer of the year and Niall Reynolds and Nigel Ferrand be jointly awarded the volunteer of the year. As these suggestions were met with approval and no other names were forthcoming then it was agreed.

- b. Croeso

CROESO website still exists. David May is webmaster. MS will write something re next Croeso for DM to put onto website. Embryonic info on site but will be done once more info on venues etc. is available. Ongoing. **ACTION 2014/17: MS/DM**

c. AGM

An initial suggestion of tying it in with SINS as has been done previously was not popular given the non availability of some of the committee. It was agreed to include it in the Volunteer Activity weekend (27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> June) but not to hold the committee meeting that weekend as well.

7. Date of next meeting: Mid June, PR to arrange.

**ACTION 2015/06: PR**

Pete will be on ½ hour early to the meeting to help people join the Hangout.