



BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WELSH ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

Venue:

DATE: Saturday, 12th October 2013, 5pm

Venue: Aberffraw Village Hall LL63 5LQ

MINUTES

PRESENT: Peter Ribbans (Chair), Anne May, Roger Stein, Bob Dredge (BOF Director), David May, Mark Saunders, Gabriella Walsh

1. Apologies – Sophie Brown, Amy Peltor, Helena Burrows, David Pal, Sue Norris, Robert Griffiths
2. Minutes of last business meeting. Passed as accurate representation of the meeting.
3. Matters arising, not covered below
 - 2013/24 RS: details not yet put onto WOA website. RS and DP to discuss what should go on to website. **ACTION 2013/24: RS**
 - /25: Coaches and coaching logs. HB has clarified.
 - /26: done
 - /27: GW and RP not yet reported. They looked at what funding opportunities are available in Wales. Needs more input on which way we should develop. She needs input from MS and BOF (BD). EU fund called Leader (Scots and NI have used this). NI are very successful at accessing NI funding. GW should talk to Phillip Baxter of NI to see what they do. **ACTION 2013/27: GW**
 - /28: DONE
 - /29: DONE
 - /30: DONE – should the responsibilities be moved to other officer of the committee? To be discussed at a later stage but before the AGM. 5.2 and 5.3 references to family memberships should be removed. RS marking amendments he noticed should be done. DM: who will be responsible for maintaining the Competition Rules for the Welsh Championships.
 - /31: DONE – BS has agreed to take over the schools liaison.
 - /32 and /33: date of SWOC Welsh League has been confirmed. There will be no Eryri league event.
 - /34: covered by DPal's reports on rotas – see below.
 - /35: dates for Croeso = in DP's report – see below.
 - /36: JK 2014 – MS's recommendations were obviously accepted. WOA to take either a notional levy equal to its standard levy (70p per adult, 23p per junior) or 50%, whichever is less. The balance of the association share will be divided up as per the Croeso model. WOA (PR) signed it as being the lead organisation.

/37: PR replied on behalf of WOA to Mike Hamilton. MS – dev. HB – coaching; PR – general contact;

/38: Done – RS: has BOF been informed of WOA membership (first year free). BOF needs to know by Oct. the request from BOF has not yet come to Membership Sec or Chair. Has AP received it? WOA memberships fee £3 and £1.20 is not included in the club fees and the first year is free. Bob Dredge will inform BOF what we are doing. The fee is collected by BOF

/39: done

4. Reports from Officers (for the period June to October 2013):

a) Report from the Treasurer (Amy Peltor)

Set of Accounts and Treasurer's Report was sent out to all prior to meeting.

BD – the new levy system is not bringing in the same amount of money to British Orienteering as the previous method. There is a gradual falling off of numbers at major and minor events.

RS: 1.2 Club and Dev grants? –MS: clubs have not yet decided how they will be spent.

RS: 2.2 “budget savings” must mean we would receive a smaller grant from Sport Wales.

BD: sports granting bodies are under pressure from their superiors.

RS: Perhaps we should include a smaller grant in our budgeting. Should we include some income from JK2014 in the 2014 projection?

PR to get the current JK budget and work out what the expected figure is and feed it through to AP to consider including in her figures.

ACTION 2013/39: PR

b) Report from the Secretary (Vacant) – no report

c) Report from the Fixtures Secretary (David Pal)

Fixtures Secretary's Report was sent out to all prior to meeting.

Welsh League events – MS says they should be promoted more so he is incorporating Junior Squad weekends with some of the Welsh League events and he hopes the POW event on 11/5/2014 could be used as the YB Trophy event – he needs to clear it with POW.

ACTION 2013/40: MS

RS confirmed that Dave Seward happy to continue doing the calculations for the Welsh League. RS will put information about the Welsh League events onto the website now that dates etc have been confirmed.

ACTION 2013/41: RS

CSC first round: SWOC may be too busy as they are probably putting on the Welsh Championships a couple of weeks later. CSC first round is normally on a fixed date. DM: could it be combined with the Welsh Champs? PR: gut feeling is not considering course combinations. DM feels it might be done.

CLUBS to be asked by DP to see if another club would do it.

ACTION 2013/42: DP

VHI 2015 GW and DP to discuss and confirm.

ACTION 2013/43: GW/DP

GW wondered if VHI and Welsh Champs could be combined in the one event. All agreed it would be feasible.

Croeso 2016: suggested date 7-13 Aug 2016 but it has to be confirmed. DM will find out dates of WMOC and let DP know. ACTION 2013/44: DM

If Llynoid Teifi is used in Sep 2014 can it be used in following year for the VHI/Welsh Champs event? Is 10 months embargo OK? It was felt that it was ok if event in 2015 could be on different areas of L T.

POW will now provisionally book accommodation for the VHI. AP to be contacted by GW re deposit for accommodation. GW will contact team managers re structure of the event.

ACTION 2013/45: GW/AP

DP's action points:

1. SWOC to discuss hosting 2016 Welsh Champs at their next meeting.

ACTION 2013/46: PR

2. DP to contact all clubs re hosting Level B events in 2015/16.

ACTION 2013/47: DP

3. Croeso 2016: AM: Multiple centres would not really work as it would proved unpopular if people had to move accommodation during the week – would put up the expense significantly for competitors.

MS reported: SBOC have offered a certain no of areas. MS would be prepared to act as Co-ordinator of the event. MS is going to check areas offered to see what is feasible. MS talked to NF – he is prepared to act as Treasurer. Need to think of event centre, accommodation etc. Margam Park is a potential event centre. MS to keep us updated.

ACTION 2013/48: MS

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

Membership Secretary's Report was sent out to all prior to meeting.

Peter Seward is a life member as well as Judith Powell and John Butler. Arthur Bourne has passed away. Enid is still alive and interested in Welsh orienteering.

No. of members in BO reducing? BD: the change from family to individual has caused the numbers of members to be lower. But this should be the new base line.

- e) Report from the Development Officer (Mark Saunders)

Some of the clubs are very active: SBOC AND POW have had some new initiatives this year. A lot of schools and scouts, evening events. SBOC: new membership packs. All the clubs have invested in buying the Carol McNeill books to give to new members – very good idea.

Croeso pot: previously clubs proposed things to spend the money on. What to do next? No decision made yet.

AM asked if there was any experience anywhere (in the country/world) which successfully bridges the school/club transition of children.

GW/RP discussed what direction development should go? Discussion followed. Lots of ideas brought up. MS to consider further.

ACTION 2013/49: MS

- f) Report from the Mapping Officer (Robert Griffiths)

No report was provided.

DM: Lidar data is now free (qualifies for 100% discount). Therefore mappers need to be trained in it. It will produce very accurate maps. Clubs are now beginning to use it. Much of Wales is at 3m, not yet all 1m.

- g) Report from the Information Officer (Roger Stein) – no report
- h) Report from the Coaching Officer (Helena Burrows)
Coaching Officer's Report was sent out to all prior to meeting.
RS – is dubious that the cost of courses is putting people off. PR does not know what the demand for the coaching courses is in 2014. That needs to be established. If it is the cost, the development funds could be used for this purpose. DM asked if the whole cost could be borne by WOA. GW says if people pay a bit it might give them ownership. Ask scout leaders if they are interested? What is the max no of participants on a course?
The demand from the clubs needs to be clarified – HB to contact the clubs.
HB probably has a clearer picture of who might be ready to do a Level 2 club. GW suggests (MS agreed) the maybe the older juniors could do the courses.

ACTION 2013/50: HB
- i) Report from the Schools Liaison Advisor (Bridget Stein) – not an Officer.
BS has just taken this role on. GW: what is her remit? Collate and report on schools activities and mapping.

5. Reports from advisors

- a. Report from the Junior Squad Manager (Mark Saunders)
Distributed at meeting.
 1. *Very successful tour to Sweden in August – attended by 24 youngsters aged 12-18. Assisted by 5 Control hangers (20s/young 21s) and 7 other adults – cooks, drivers etc. 10 days of training/races. 2/3 funded by Athletes/Adults – everybody contributed. 1/3 funded by Squad – c £4K.*
 2. *JHI put on by Squad in September – with thanks to SWOC for assistance. Meal provided by parents – fund raising for Squad.*
 3. *JHI attended by Squad – Wales retained Judith Wingham Trophy (competition between Ireland and Wales).*
 4. *JIRCS also in September – not ideal – but fitting in fixture list is always a problem. Best ever result for Wales – 4th place (matched once before in 2009 – but this time we had a significantly higher score. Team spirit notable e.g. compared with other teams. No doubt that going away on tours significantly helps with this.*
 5. *Ciaran Allen and Ben Mitchell represented GB at JEC in Oct. Megan Carter-Davies to represent GB at EYOC.*
 6. *Plans in place for squad to hold training camp for the week leading up to the JK.*
 7. *As part of that Squad putting on Colour coded event on Wed before the JK. And providing Training opportunity for anyone on Wed/Thurs before JK – Hopefully will contribute to the attractiveness/success of JK and also act as a fund-raising venture.*
- b. Report from the Senior Squad Manager. Ed Nicholas and Lauren Ferrand are the managers. No report. (POST MINUTE NOTE: PR to contact them for a report for the next meeting?

ACTION 2013/51: PR

- c. Report from the Veteran Squad Manager (Sophie Brown) - Wales 2nd in this years VHI. Report sent out with the minutes.
- d. Report from Welsh League Coordinator (David Seward) no report– he is happy to do the calculations, not required to report. Trophies to be distributed at SWOC event, the first Welsh league event or at Welsh champs? Agreed the first event in Feb. Who will organise? AM will find some prizes, 1st prizes for adults, first 3 places for juniors to be given mementoes. **ACTION: 2013/52: AM**

6. News from British Orienteering

Bob Dredge: the various new steering groups due to meet in Nov/Dec. Chairs yet to be confirmed. WOA reps (see above). Revised rules to be published in Nov. these are more about format simplification and easier language and salient points for officials and competitors to be made distinctive. DM: is there an improved mechanism to inform relevant people of the changes? Possibly put the revised rules Under EVENTS on website. Anyone on Controllers list should be informed.

BD will check that at least all controllers are circulated re the New Rules, website should be flagged and FOCUS should have an article on it. **ACTION 2013/53: BD**

Club conference in Stratford. Terry, Gabriella and Roger are going. Big focus will be on volunteering.

WOC 2015 appointment: Paul McGreal, Event Director – has come from Triathlon. Commercial manager has been appointed to BOF. Sport England paid for report looking at opportunities for sponsorship. Report was very positive. World Champs, British Team, Explorer etc. GW: can we mirror this so we can approach Sport Wales for funding for this type of development. BD agreed it was a good idea.

JK & BOF champs are not good events for investors as it is only an orienteering audience. The wider event is of more interest to sponsors.

Big turnover in office – generally domestic or offers they could not refuse. None are because of disaffection.

Helen Errington, grant coming to an end and is being employed per diem to do certain tasks.

DM: Work done by volunteers is now being done in the office. E.g.rules etc. If office is shrinking then perhaps some of these tasks should come back into the voluntary sector? DM thinks there is a case for using volunteers more.

BD: “Go to the new structure, bring in new people, a new confidence to take things forward”.

We should use link of BD to BOF formally and informally.

7. Any other business

MS: is it worth trying to get another Y Ddraig out?

Junior? Senior? Welsh League? JK 2014? MS will put this together. **ACTION 2013/54: MS**

FUNDING for new Welsh tops? Co-op? wind-farm companies? Awards for All? PR to ask AP to see if she could get funding. **ACTION 2013/55: AP**

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday Feb 5th Feb 2014 – Google Hangout. PR to confirm date and time.

ACTION 2013/56: PR