

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELSH ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION,

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2009

VENUE: Erwood Inn, Erwood, Builth Wells, LD23EZ (01982 560218)

Time: 3:30 pm

PRESENT: Helena Burrows, Chair (Eryri), Robert Griffiths (POW), David May (SWOC), David Brodie (POW), Brian Hughes (HOC), Pete Ribbans (SWOC), Roger Stein (SBOC), John Butler (SBOC), Anne May (SWOC)

1. Chairman's opening comments

Helena welcomed and thanked all those who came.

2. Apologies

Mark Saunders, Alice Bedwell, Kate Balmond

3. Minutes of last business meeting

Approved and signed by HB.

4. Matters arising, not covered below

3.5.2 OCAD 10 now arrived and Robert has it.

3.13.1 WOA Development Grant – dealt with in previous meeting

4.1 SHI LOAN FOR TOPS – being sold on. Liz Campbell has not yet got the finances yet. Most of tops have been sold.

6.2 Electronic payments – some paid that way, some paid by cheque SWOC to discuss payment with JB.

12.1 Juniors – money received. Thanks received from all 3. Katy R has written an article for Y Ddraig.

13.1.1 deadline passed

13.1.2-5 DJM not aware of feedback having been received re these.

13.1.2 JB would like it to go back to old system. DJM: let it settle, there will be age class comparisons coming out.

5. Report from Treasurer

a. Budget monitoring at 31 August 2009

Report shows actual position of 15/9. JB has nothing to add. All is on track.

AM to append to minutes of this meeting.

ACTION: AM(See Appendix A)

6. Report from Membership Secretary

PR distributed report of Total by Membership Unit. PR is finding the information from BO about new members is slow in coming through to the WOA. Monthly lists of new members have not been sent out since May! The old system of receiving information from BO was by email, but the new system is paper, sent by ordinary post! Numbers in WOA are growing a little.

SEE POST-MINUTE NOTE at the end of this document.

7. Report from Technical Representative

DM circulated his report.

1 c) regarding the major revision of all BO Rules, Guidelines and Appendices: DM explained this more fully.

1 d) the carrying of GPS devices which have been barred by IOF: he commented that there has been no response yet from BO.

2) courses on 27th (not 29th) Sept and 21st November. He commented on the need to have clubs encouraging Grade 3 controllers to go up to Grade 2. DM is offering to run a Grade 2 controllers course next year, perhaps in Spring. WOA also needs more Grade 3 controllers. DM envisages Grade 3 controlling qualification might split into 2, to control larger and smaller events.

HB asked if there had been any response from Eryryi regarding the courses? DB said they had been notified but no response had been received.

8. Report from Mapping Officer

RG has received a copy of OCAD 10 and has used it. He found a few glitches though none major. The software transfers back to OCAD 8 AND 9 OK. HB found a new website, www.attackpoint.org, a good discussion forum re OCAD.

9. Report from Coaching Officer

Mark Saunders sent in a report by email which was circulated, and is attached to these minutes (**Appendix B**). MS did not comment specifically on coaching in his report, so HB updated the meeting on a couple of coaching items. She reported that Mair Tomos and HB are running teachers' courses and will have another UKCC course soon. MS can also tutor UKCC courses now. She said that the best way for a course to occur was to set a date and venue and then offer it.

10. Report from Junior Squad Manager

Kate Balmond was not present her report is included in Appendix B.

Welsh Juniors were 4th out of 11 regions in JIRCS – fantastic results. At JHI they were 3rd but boys almost won the relay! Hard work with coaching and tour is paying off. A full programme is planned for next year. Fund raising is being done too.

11. Report from Schools Liaison officer

Mair Tomos is nominally schools liaison (not formally), but HB has not talked to her about this. If we get money through the development initiative, more can be done about schools liaison. HB commented that some mappers do not teach orienteering and may not take this into account when they map a school site; they map perhaps at too small a scale without considering how the map would be used. A lot of work is going on in schools mapping.

12. Fixtures – Brian Hughes

WOA Fixtures Meeting was held in Worcester on 29th August 2009 with representative of SWOC, SBOC and POW. There was no specific feedback from clubs on the meeting though Peter Ribbans confirmed that SWOC will try to simplify events, they will pick a date(s) upon which they will put on Level 2 events as a start, not worrying about detail.

- a. It had been agreed that WOA will hold at least 6 level 2 events per year (SWOC – 2, SBOC – 2, POW – 1, ERYRI – 1), but if a club wants to put on more that's fine. Welsh League matches are to be level 2 events. BH will be representing WOA at BO fixtures meeting in 2010, he needs a.s.a.p. from clubs list of level 2 events for 2011 because level 2 areas are

embargoed for 12 months and BO needs to make sure that not too many level 2 are on at the same date.

ACTION: Club Secretaries

- b. Even spacing of Fixtures. Clubs must get a balance between attracting new people and those to retain current members. Throughout the country there are not many events in winter/early spring/ autumn that would attract and give newer members events of interest. At the fixtures meeting it was agreed that clubs would try to spread events and different types of event over the year. Also agreement to put on different formats of event – sprint, middle, etc, rather than the limited type of event put on at present. We need to attract younger people and sprint events are attractive to younger ones.

Will clubs take note of what is in the minutes of the fixtures meeting? Perhaps email clubs asking them if they will? BH suggests he writes up a version of the minutes for Y Ddraig and welcome responses.

ACTION: BH

HB thanks the fixtures group for getting it together and taking time to discuss this. There was some discussion on how to move development when 3 courses only are offered.

13. Format of Welsh Championships weekend

There was some discussion about the format of the weekend, about what the 2nd (non-long day) should provide. DB commented that a Sprint might not attract the numbers to stay a 2nd day, as it would be too short. DB's view is a medium event, but how many courses should be offered? The number of courses might affect the willingness of the controller to control. This year just ½ the number entered for day 2 short as the classic day.

HB is aware that POW took on the next event (in March 2010) at short notice and is appreciative of them doing the job. If 2nd event is to be a medium – how many courses? – yellow & orange standard and 3 tech courses of 3 different lengths was agreed. DB is happy with this decision. Perhaps medal for open winners but trophies for Welsh winners? POW will decide what to do about medals/trophies for this year. WOA will give money towards Welsh Championships prizes. In future, the proposal for the weekend might be 2 good events: 1 middle distance, 1 classic. We need to aspire to getting a good quality weekend to attract people from other regions. We need to get the publicity right.

SBOC is not supporting the move to a middle distance as additional to the Welsh Champs as it is likely to be too heavy on organisational requirements and manpower.

Proposal: recommend that we have a Classic and a Middle Distance champs for the POW event. By May meeting the POW weekend will be reviewed and then make a decision for 2011 based on that. All agreed with this proposal.

14. Croeso 2012

DB has now taken over responsibility for being the Croeso co-ordinator. He has produced a draft committee structure; the idea is to have a small committee and have subgroups. In addition to roles outlined in the draft, website design and updating and enquiries roles need to be added. He got a very good template from Scottish 6-Days which will be very useful. Vacancies on the structure need to be filled.

DM suggesting approaching the tourist office in Aberystwyth for funding on basis of 2000 competitors and £1/2 to £1 million revenue brought into the area. Perhaps they could sponsor a marquee, for example. DB will contact the mayor regarding the event. After POW event in Nov there will be a Croeso meeting.

ACTION: DB

15. Communications/discussions with clubs

Have all clubs now given BO and AM correct contact details? Clubs need to check.

ACTION: ALL CLUB SECRETARIES

16. Old SI kit

HB has been wondering what to do with the old SI kit which is still usable. Graham Tough was asked to think about what to do and present his findings to the meeting. HB read the suggestions. See Appendix C of these minutes.

Comments were invited: the old kit has its limitations. It was suggested that we should let clubs and coaches know they are available. HB to write something about this or ask Graham to do so for the next Y Ddraig.

ACTION: HB

17. Any other business

- a) RB said POW trying to put on a mapping course with Rod Postlethwaite, probably at Newtown. Note to go on the website and in Y Ddraig.

ACTION: RG

- b) Regional Flyers were sent from Caroline at BO to Helena who questioned whether we want one for Wales? It would need to be in 2 languages. MH said BO would help WOA in their production. HB would get the relevant phrases from Mair Tomos for BO. JB commented that the flier would be too general as a regional one.
- c) For information: www.7dayshop.com – large Recta flags for 2.99 plus pin punches £17.99 per set of 10 (2 different sets). Much cheaper than CompassPoint or Ultrasport.

18. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed, Jan/Feb and probably in southern end of North Wales.

Appendix A

WELSH ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION - BUDGET 2010

Ref		2010 Budget A	Budget B	2009 Probable C	Variation D	2008 Actual E
		£	£	£	£	£
	REVENUE ACCOUNT					
	Income					
1	Subscriptions	1600	1600	1570	-30	1529
2	Levies	700	700	1000	300	658
3	CROESO 2008 Levies	0	0	0	0	4625
4	CROESO 2008 Share of Surplus	0	-230	-230	0	1209
5	CROESO 2008 50% of BO Levies	0	-230	-230	0	7419
6	BOC 2007 Net Surplus	0	0	0	0	296
7	SHI 2007 Surplus	0	0	0	0	100
8	Interest	20	20	20	0	369
9	SCW Grant	4000	4000	4000	0	4000
10		6320	5860	6130	270	20205
	Less Expenditure					
11	Administrator	0	-520	-520	0	-1250
12	Officers' Expenses	-250	-350	-250	100	-250
13	Committee Meetings	-150	-150	-150	0	-58
14	Y Ddraig	-1500	-1250	-1300	-50	-1295
15	SI & IT Equipment	-700	-700	-700	0	-30
16	Schools Liaison	-500	-500	-250	250	-281
17	Training of Officials & Coaches	-300	-300	-150	150	-220
18	Domestic Events	-500	-500	-450	50	-450
19	Preparation Training	-200	0	-200	-200	-200
20	International Programme	-4000	-4000	-4000	0	-4010
21	Development Grants	-1500	-1500	-1500	0	0
22	Other	-100	-100	0	100	0
23		-9700	-9870	-9470	400	-8044
	Deficit(-)/Surplus for the Year	-3380	-4010	-3340	670	12161
24	Transfer to(-)/from Development Fund	3000	3000	2600	-400	-12000
25	Transfer to(-)/from Reserve Fund	380	1010	740	-270	-161
26	Net Deficit for the Year	0	0	0	0	0
	DEVELOPMENT FUND					
28	At 1 January	9400	12000	12000	0	0
29	Transfer to(-)/from Revenue Account	-3000	-3000	-2600	400	12000
30	At 31 December	6400	9000	9400	400	12000

RESERVE FUND						
31	At 1 January	6120	6860	6860	0	6697
32	Transfer to(-)/from Revenue Account	-380	-1010	-740	270	161
33	At 31 December	5740	5850	6120	270	6858

11-Sep-09

APPENDIX B

From: Mark Saunders [Markandalice@btinternet.com]
Sent: 16 September 2009 9:14 pm
To: Helena Burrows
Cc: anneMay; John Butler; Kate Balmond
Subject: Junior Squad

Hi Helena,

Apologies from myself and Alice for this weekend's meeting.

A few things to add to Kate's report on JIRCS for the meeting.

Norway Tour

A really enjoyable tour. - fantastic forests, good weather, helpful local club. Norway very expensive – particularly Car Hire, Maps, Food and event entry, but fortunately we managed to get some very cheap accommodation – a sort of superior Village Hall. So with help of some good fund raising effort this year – in particular the 0007 Score event – we managed to keep athletes (and coaches) contribution down to an acceptable level - £250 for 10 days away, covering everything. Thanks also to WOA for the financial support over the year.

JHI

Also very enjoyable. Many thanks to Eryri. We managed to put a little bit more daylight between us and a resurgent Irish Squad than we have in recent years.

The weekend also saw the debut of our new jackets, partly financed by contribution from Fujitsu. Many thanks to Phil Jenkins for organising.

JIRCS

The fact that it came two weeks after the Norway tour – which for some of our team would have meant more orienteering than they had done in the rest of the year put together – definitely helped – both physically and technically. Really good to see some good performances from some of the younger members of the squad.

Given that we are one of the smallest regions – David will know the figures , but I think apart from Northern Ireland and maybe NE, we are THE smallest - 4th out of 12 was really pleasing.

Obviously these things go in cycles, and next year is going to be tough to match that result as we lose all 4 of our 18s – incl Kris Jones. However we have some good youngsters coming through which is encouraging.

Looking ahead

A full programme planned for the next year, including a few days in Forest of Dean over Feb half term – with a fund raising event – probably middle race – on the Saturday before the Southern Champs. Also a tour in the week after the JK - hopefully in the SW.

Good to see SWOC putting on Saturday morning coaching, and an active programme from POW (and SBOC as ever). The future success of junior orienteering in Wales is really dependent on activity like this at a CLUB level.

Regards

Mark

POST MINUTE NOTE: Response from Mike Hamilton, Chief Executive, British Orienteering to an email from David May re 6. Membership Secretary's Report, above.

- i) Club membership secretaries are concerned about the length of time it takes to get confirmation about new members. They report that there used to be monthly updates but that this happens much less frequently now.

Both are valid concerns that are being addressed. The club/assoc updates do go out at the start of each month but currently nothing goes out to those clubs that have no new members – however we don't tell them that! This definitely causes a problem which will be addressed once the new system is installed over the next 6-8 weeks. This monthly notice of new members mirrors the process that was used in the last membership system so the service is no different. The new system will provide an automated email to the club/assoc membership sec when a new member is added which should resolve the issue.

- ii) In addition, some of the updates are paper based and therefore data have to be keyed in to their club databases separately.

The second issue is regarding the paper list they currently receive – again this will change once the new system is implemented and they will be able to download a csv or pdf, whichever suits them.