**Minutes of MDOC Committee Meeting 10th March 2014**

**Present:** Dave McCann (Chairman), Steve Dempsey, Tony Wagg (Secretary), John Britton, Andrew Gregory, Margaret Gregory, , Trevor Hindle, Eddie Speak, Kath Speak, Julie Brook, Pete Lomas.

**Apologies for Absence:** Sue Birkinshaw **.**

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting:** Accepted.

**2. Matters Arising/Actions:** Two issues arose from the Irwell Valley event. The LCD clock needs written instructions and reset itself by 4 minutes during the event, apparently in response to a radio signal. Eddie Speak expressed surprise and agreed to check the clock’s behaviour. Some of the signs between car parks and assembly were reported to be unsatisfactory. Pete Lomas (assistant storeman amongst other skills) believed the Club held adequate signs. It is possible that some of the better signs may have remained in stores.

**3. Treasurer’s Report:** The treasurer submitted a written report. A final profit of about £1000 is expected from the Irwell Event (CSC).

**4. Future Events:** Central Manchester urban event. Dave McCann will print further flyers for distribution at the JK and British Championships.

There has been a thin response for volunteer planners for the Lyme Park Introductory and Summer Evening events. For the former there is the option of recycling courses from previous years. For the latter, Dave McCann offered to control Macc Forest (15/4) and Julie to organise Brereton. The co-ordinator is about to oil his thumb screws. It was noted that vehicle entry to Lyme Park is £7, though free to NT members, and those arriving after 4.30pm may not be charged.

The committee agreed that Alan Ogden should be allowed to use the Macclesfield urban map to stage an urban score event as part of a local (mainly) arts festival.

**5. North West OA:** Dave McCann was unable to attend the NW Club Delegate Meeting but has written to express our wish to take ownership of the Place Fell and Angle Tarn maps. The meeting had provisionally assigned the areas to LOC but this will probably be reversed.

The issue of who chooses map scales for major events remains live and the viewpoint of LOC, supported by the NW exec, is outlined in the MDOC newsletter and Compass Sport (both Feb 2014). There is no dispute that elite classes should use a scale in accordance with international rules. Older classes prefer larger scales. LOC argue that the choice of map scale for a given event should rest with the planner and controller, rather than the map advisory group as at present. They have submitted a motion to the BOF AGM this year and are urging members to consider the matter and vote as they think fit.

Explorer Events. Thomas Brown has been appointed by BOF as a new NW participation officer and he has written to clubs outlining plans for 2014 for introductory events. The plan includes more than 50 events in Greater Manchester, including 6 in Lyme Park, aimed at children and adult beginners. The committee expressed some concern that there may not be a means to encourage a proportion to progress to orienteering proper. Examples of maps do not resemble orienteering maps and some planners may have little orienteering experience. However Vicky Thornton is involved in some events. It was agreed that Dave McCann should talk to Vicky and then write to Thomas Brown to discuss how these events can lead people into orienteering, rather than just demonstrating that x people have taken part in an explorer event.

**6. AOB: (a)** BOF is introducing central contracts for services at major events. This may include marquees, portaloos, catering and equipment stalls. The treasurer expressed special concern for the latter two, as at present these are supplied by small specialist businesses committed to orienteering. They rely on a proportion of larger events to make their business viable. If central contracting forced them out, there would be a loss to the sport, especially the servicing of smaller events. The committee agreed that the chairman should draft a motion on this issue for circulation and discussion at the next committee meeting. This might then be presented to BOF, though it is too late for motions to the forthcoming BOF AGM.

(b) Nopesport: This provides an on-line forum for the discussion of orienteering issues and is valued by some MDOC members. The present administrators no longer wish to be involved and have offered the site for sale. Any individual or group taking over would need to have time, commitment and specialist IT skills, along with about £1500. Nopesport is otherwise likely to vanish. The committee would like Nopesport to continue but could not identify anyone within the Club willing and able to continue the activities. However, if a suitable candidate/consortium can be found elsewhere, the Club would in principle be willing to support such a venture, including a financial contribution. It was also agreed that this extract from our minutes should be published via Nopesport (action Dave McCann).

(c) New Urban Vests. 12 have now been ordered.

**7. Date of next Meeting:** 14th April 2014.