

Minutes MDOC Committee Meeting 10th January 2022

On-line Attendees: Eddie Speak (Chair), Kath Speak, Tony Wagg (Sec), Peter Cull (Treasurer), Sue Birkinshaw, Julie Brook, Alison Fryer, Alain Kyd, Dom Wathey, Trevor Hindle, Paul Watson, Pete Lomas, Rae Lomas.

Apologies: Catriona Beynon, Simon Freytag, Graham Heap, Pete Hayes.

1. Minutes of Last meeting: Correction Section 7. Delete first sentence. (GMOA AGM was not postponed).

2. Matters Arising and Actions:

(a) Club co-ordinator for Lakes 5 day. Dave McCann emailed NW club officials on 2nd Jan to clarify what he and the overall co-ordinator (Derek Allison) require. Within each club this is a person to act as the main contact for all things related to the event and who can mobilise any help requested from the club. Eddie volunteered to serve this function and to inform Dave of this. Tony Wagg offered to co-ordinate our volunteers if required, as he had done this for the previous Lakes 5. **Action ES.**

(b) Event entry fees. See section 4 below.

(c) Purchase of large road signs (non-urgent). **(Action continues ES).**

3. Junior Issues: Dominic reported that the training session linked to the Saturday morning events was well attended and productive. (His pocket money may depend on his giving a favourable review here). The series forms part of the coach qualification program (Dave/ Cecilia/Peter Hayes).

4. Finance: Peter Cull submitted a written account for the year up to the end of December, showing a loss to date of £378. This is after payment of about £1500 for a large stock of map paper and a net cost of £600 for coaching courses (NWOA pays an equal amount). We need another first aid course, as we have only 9 active qualified people and most of these are due to 'expire' in November. NWOA affiliation fees of £374 are due but this still represents a post-covid discount rate.

A discussion of event fees followed. Senior NSL and local entry fees are both set at £4, previously equated to provide a simple structure. Peter and Grahame Crawshaw recently discussed NSL costs and concluded that levies and map printing cost about £2 per head. Planners rarely charged travel expenses so £3 produced a profit of typically £80 per event and £4 gives £160. The cost of any prizes is excluded. Trevor raised the issue of giving a discount to BOF members at street league. We get 70 odd entrants, one third of whom are members of fell and other running clubs. DEE and SROC NSL events attract far fewer entrants, virtually all of whom are orienteers. Given that the running club members have their own 'entertainment' at weekends, an entry discount seems unlikely to induce them to join BOF and we gain from their NSL entries. Saturday morning events cost more to stage but attract a slightly larger entry. These are mainly BOF members or juniors in school groups. Our profits tend to be more modest than for NSL.

The committee agreed to leave fees unchanged for the current year but were sympathetic to the idea of a discount for BOF members at NSL events. However, Eddie will talk to Grahame C (NSL co-ordinator) before any decision is taken. **Action ES.**

5. Reports:

5.1 Event Operation/Planning:

(a) John o Goats Event (Lyme). The event was well attended, making £900 for the scouts after payment of levies. The committee thanked the planners (Ben and Alain Kyd) and organisers (Catriona and Rhys Beynon), who took on their tasks at short notice.

(b) One organiser remained to be found for the March Saturday event.

(c) May urban weekend. We still need officials and exact locations are still to be fixed (but see 5.2 below).

(d) Recruitment of officials and helpers. Generic guidance notes for officials (planner, organiser, controller, including who does what) have long been on the website and Sue is currently re-writing them. The following ideas were proposed to enlarge the pool of volunteers. We could run a mini course for novice officials and divide the organiser's job amongst 2 or more people, especially for major events. Some clubs divide their members into teams and each team then runs a particular event.

5.2. Mapping and Printing: May urban weekend. The Manchester map is progressing. Permission remains to be confirmed. Tytherington is now the preferred option for the Saturday. Trevor Hindle will plan Manchester and Pete Ross and Jillyan Dobby are likely to take care of Tytherington. The school may be able to provide parking. Trevor Roberts has arranged this in the past and can advise. Eddie will contact him. **Action ES.**

5.3. Membership: Some renewals need chasing.

5.4. Marketing: Nothing to report.

6. Schools: No report.

7. GMOA: Nothing to report

8. Performance and Training: Liz Hamer-Davies has spoken to Tom Fellbaum (current and former Club captains). As a result, Plan A was to enter the CompassSport cup event in Shropshire but we may be required to stay within our region at Hawes End (latter subsequently confirmed).

9. Fixtures Policy: Sue stressed that she intended to retire as Fixtures Sec at the end of this year and suggested that new ideas were required. Our present focus (not necessarily by choice) was on a large number of low-key events and few major ones.

10. AOB:

Coaching videos. Ian Gilliver emailed to report that follow up reports on the videos to Sport England were now completed and accepted. They had financed the project and the intent was to monitor subsequent POC use to detect any increase in participation. There was intensive publicity but covid largely destroyed a sensible analysis of the outcome. Nevertheless, there is evidence that the videos have been very well received. I even received an email from the Irish OA asking our permission to use them. They are freely available and permission is not required. The initiative, much of the work, and dealings with Sport England are due to Sarah Brown. The committee wish to thank her, and TW/ES are actioned to write to her. **Action TW/ES.**

11. Next Meeting: The next committee meeting will take place on Monday February 14th 2022 at 7.30pm, provisionally 'in the flesh' in Cheadle.