

Minutes MDOC Committee Meeting 10th July 2023

Attendees: In person: Tony Wagg (Sec), Sue Birkinshaw, Pete Hayes, Paul Watson, Julie Brook.

. Via Zoom:, Trevor Hindle, Liz Hamer Davies (Chair), Peter Cull (Treasurer), Andy Thornton, Alain Kyd, Trevor Roberts

Apologies: Catriona Beynon, Dom Wathey, Simon Freytag, Graham Heap, Alison Fryer.

1. Minutes of Last meeting: Accepted.

2. Matters Arising and Actions:

(a) Resignations. Alison Fryer and Graham Heap have resigned from the committee due to pressure of work and Liz is to step down as Chair. They were thanked for their contributions.

(b) Appeal for newsletter editor. **Action continues Chair.**

(c) Condes Course -**Action continues PW.**

(d) Policy agreement on support for juniors – copy to treasurer **Action SB.**

(e) **TW** to attend NW CDM meeting on 19th July online.

(f) Alain Kyd was thanked for organising our team for the final of the Yvette Baker Trophy.

3. Juniors: No report.

4. Finance: Peter Bray has been chosen to represent Britain at the World Championships in Switzerland. He will incur significant expenses and has asked whether MDOC and the region can offer a contribution. The NWOA has already offered to contribute 20% of the total. We have an established policy for juniors (see 2(d) above) but applications from seniors have been treated on a case-by-case basis. We agreed to duplicate the NWOA formula and contribute a further 20%. BOF has yet to define the total bill to Peter but current estimates total around £1600 (hence £320 to the Club). Trevor Hindle suggested that we should agree a club policy for seniors but this was deferred for the present. On a previous occasion Peter gave a Zoom seminar of his trip to the club and he could be invited to repeat something similar for example.

Lakes 5 funds. LOC have passed to us a sum of money in thanks for John Kewley controlling the event that they staged. The amount was part of their share of the overall profit for the week. It was agreed that this should be passed directly to John.

Bank accounts. The signatories for the existing HSBC account are long out of date and need revision. There also remains the option of using a Lloyds online account originally set up for the Northern Championships weekend and operated jointly with LOC. They have agreed to us taking over that account. Full resolution of this issue was deferred in the short term as the HSBC account still functions and new signatories will be introduced after the AGM in October.

Financial approval for expenditure on events. There is a precedent allowing organisers to make goodwill payments and donations for example to landowners. It was agreed that this should continue but that we should define a policy in writing. Entry fees to large events are held by other bodies such as Fabian 4 and SI. These are well known and widely used by the orienteering community (including BOF for SI) and we do not need to conduct a due diligence review. Individual events may either make a profit or loss. What matters is the outcome of events taken as a series rather than in isolation.

Local membership and insurance issues. Paul Watson has submitted a summary of the status of third party insurance cover provided by BOF, including member and non-member competitors. Clubs need to record names, dates and contact details for the latter competitors. Both groups have insurance cover. However, BOF propose to charge an extra levy on non-members of 85p per run (seniors only) bringing their total levy to £ 2.5. The proposed overall levy structure has been circulated to all BOF members. Andy suggested that this move would discourage new members and should be opposed. Others pointed out that clubs are free to decide if or how this cost is passed on in entry fees and there has been a recent trend to charging non-members higher entry fees, partly as an incentive for them to become members. Paul's document also raised the possibility of the Club introducing a local membership and described examples of how some other clubs operate such a system. This idea is that we might offer discounts on local events, though the BOF levy would apply at the non-member rate. Andy was invited to submit a proposal for local membership to the next committee meeting and if supported would be put forward at the AGM. **Action AT.** Chris Rostron may have a view and will be invited to the next meeting (18th September).

5.Reports:

5.1 Marketing: Paul submitted a report. The group plans a flyer for Autumn events suitable for a range of media. The Spunch database can also be used to advertise these events. A further focus can include park run and fell race participants. Spunch and Street League already have well-functioning publicity.

5.2 Fixtures: The subcommittee submitted a report. The entry fee structure for local events is defined. For larger and weekend events the organiser is requested to provide a budget and suggested fees for committee approval. The introduction of local membership is proposed (see section 4 above). The Bramhall Park event in November will be a flexible format come and try it.

The entry fees for the Birchwood/Offerton weekend were agreed as £10 for one day and £18 for both days.

5.3 Schools: Pete Hayes reported that he had trained Cheshire College students prior to a Peak District expedition in mid-March. Work in primary schools has been limited by the teachers' dispute. An MDOC member has requested teaching at their children's school. The outcome of this and other possible activities will be reported in September.

6. Stores: A short term location can be provided in Sue's garage. It is possible that Burnage Rugby Club might be able to offer a longer-term solution. John Britten or Dave McCann might have relevant information?

7. AOB:

(a) The future of the Club. Andy submitted an outline of how the Club might develop over the next 2-5 years, expanding membership, participation and activities on offer. After brief discussion it was agreed that a forum should be held in September where all club members are invited to submit ideas and comments. Paul and Andy were invited to discuss and organise. **Action AT/PW.**

(b) Chair person. Liz wishes not to continue as Chair. She has found the job more demanding than expected, especially given her relative lack of experience in some of the issues and procedures involved.

8. Next Meeting: The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 18th September 2023 at 7.30pm at venue to be agreed and via Zoom,.