

Minutes MDOC Committee Meeting 13th November 2023

Attendees: David Wathey (Chair), Julie Brook, Pete Hayes, Andy Thornton, Tony Wagg (sec), Paul Watson, Marie Roberts, Sue Birkinshaw, David Isherwood, Wang Ki Yuen.

Apologies: Catriona Beynon, Dom Wathey, Alain Kyd, Liz Hamer Davies, Peter Cull (Treasurer).

1. Minutes of Last meeting: Accepted.

2. Matters Arising and Actions:

(a) Appeal for newsletter editor. See section 10(c) below.

(b) Condes Course. Paul reported that 9 people had expressed an interest and the first session was planned for November 27th. A booklet has been issued, useful for those interested in more advanced topics.

(c) The website has been updated to list current officers and committee members.

(d) Junior representatives. David W agreed to contact Rhys Beynon (Catriona's father) and Dominic to establish if and how they might remain as junior reps.

(e) The secretary agreed to circulate the current committee mailing list. It contains a few people not on the committee. **Action TW.**

3. Finance: No report.

4. Chairman's Vision: David outlined three key issues-

(a) Grow the membership, especially an active membership.

(b) Retain current membership. We need to get the offer right, including events, coaching and social gatherings.

(c) Increase the pool of volunteers, especially in key roles.

Sue added that we must stage at least one major event per year and that we needed a mentoring system for novice planners and organisers. This should be initiated by the fixtures committee.

5. Meetings format and frequency: All agreed that we needed to meet monthly. The next three (up to and including February) will be in person at the Railway Inn (Handforth). Thereafter we will review to include to option of some via Zoom.

6. Bramhall Mini O Fest report: Paul reported that the event was a great success, with 208 pre-entries, 22 EOD and of the total, 140 were non-members. There was a good age mix, including children. There had been heavy publicity, involving, Facebook, community newspapers and sports clubs. A subcommittee will report further at the next committee meeting. **Action Bramhall subgroup (officials, Sue, Chris Rostron).** David W suggested we should email entrants about the Riverside Park event in December.

7. Fixtures Subcommittee report: Sue submitted a detailed report and made the following additional points. Manor Park map update. £200 has been committed for this. Sue proposed every map is updated prior to each event rather than leaving the task to individual planners. This should be initiated by the fixtures subcommittee (s/c).

The Birchwood urban weekend attracted 140 participants and despite the modest numbers, was considered a success and worth the effort.

Major events. We are due to stage the Northern Championships in the Lakes (Angle Tarn) in 2025. A record of all planned major events should appear in the minutes via the fixtures s/c report.

7.1 May Bank Holiday weekend: Major urban events will take place on May 4th and 5th, with informal supporting events on the Friday evening (pub-based MetrO) and the Monday in Wythenshawe Park. All venues and officials are in place. It was agreed that entry fees for these events will be the same for members and non-members, with the Club absorbing the extra BOF levy.

7.2 Marketing: Trevor Hindle has submitted a sheet for the above weekend to go on the club website. Paul will handle social media, in collaboration with Matthew Snarr, and ensure that all publicity gives a contact point. **Action PW.**

7.3. Proposed MapRun intro series to support above: Andy proposes to run a series of 4 urban Spunch events in central Manchester in the evenings with three in April and a final one in mid-May. Written details were presented. The aim is to attract newcomers in the 18-60 age range. Paul will establish with Trevor Hindle whether the Bank Holiday events are newcomer friendly. **Action PW.** Given that they are, Andy proposes to co-ordinate the series and commission new IOF standard (re-usable) maps. The committee agreed expenditure of up to £1600 to fund these maps. There is a fair chance the event income will pay back a significant part of this outlay. The committee agreed to delegate to Andy management of the series, subject to reports to the fixtures s/c and liaising with the weekend organisers and Trevor Hindle.

8. Membership: A new membership process is already in place in the form of a welcome message for new members and a frequent report to the committee is proposed of the number of members gained.

9. Social: It is proposed to hold a social on either January 13th or 20th at, for example, High Lane village hall. Catering will be provided by volunteers (including hot food) or by an outside caterer. Activities might include the presentation of awards and medals and a ceilidh with a band. Detailed arrangements will be made by the social subcommittee. David Isherwood has agreed to Chair this committee. A subsidy of up to £1600 was agreed.

10. AOB:

(a) Transgender athletes. Sue reported that BOF had sent out a ruling regarding transgender athletes competing in major events. She asked that it is recorded that we are aware of the communication.

(b) Subcommittee reports. It was agreed that each committee may decide how often it chooses to meet.

(c) Newsletter. Marie agreed to produce the first of a series of monthly digital news bulletins, also available on paper by request. A small team is sought to produce further editions on rotation.

(d) Agenda items on stores, a coaching report and options for using income from the JK, were deferred.

(d) Future issues. It was agreed that we should discuss at the next meeting school's strategy, MDOC mapping assets and security of same, and development funding.

11. Next Meeting: The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 11th December 2023 at 7.30pm, at the Railway Inn Handforth.