

Minutes of the SCOA Committee Meeting held on Thursday 7th December 2023 at 1930
(on Zoom)

Present

Ian Moran	SOC	Acting Chair
Fiona Clough	BKO	Secretary & Interim Treasurer/Club Rep
Di Smith	SOC	Club Rep
Alan Kersley	BADO	Club Rep
Debbie Robinson	SN	Club Rep
Liz Yeadon	SARUM	Club Rep
Richard Sharp	TVOC	Fixtures & Club Rep

1638 Apologies for absence

Jon Wheatcroft	TVOC	Chair
Simon Kippin	TVOC	SCJS

1639 Minutes of committee meeting held on 7th September

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed by all present and accepted to be an accurate record of the proceedings. Proposed by IM, seconded by DR.

1640 Matters arising

Paragraph 1622 – Current status of SCOA Badge scheme. FC informed the committee that the badges are currently held by Glyn Thomas (BKO), the stock is renewed as and when stocks run low (LY said that she and Jerry Newcombe ordered more when needed). DS pointed out that the White and Yellow badges are below JS standard but do serve as a visible incentive for young junior and novice adults. There needs to be a central administration holding point and the scheme needs to be promoted across the region.

Criteria is 3 unassisted runs that reach the required standard.

It was agreed that this fits well under the Club Captain role.

Action: FC to ask Glyn Thomas whether he was happy to administer (pass badges to Club Captains on request) the SCOA badge scheme.

Action: Club Reps to promote Badge Scheme and ask Club Captains to remember scheme when reviewing novice/junior performance.

Paragraph 1628 – Congratulation letter to Sarah Rollins – complete.

Paragraph 1628 – Recruit either new Treasurer or Secretary – ongoing.

Paragraph 1629 – JW to send TVOC Treasurer's email to FC – complete.

Paragraph 1631 – JW suggest Hodgemoor 19/5/24 as YBT round to TVOC committee – done and agreed.

Paragraph 1632 – FC to email RS re changes to Level B events – complete.

Paragraph 1632 – Club Reps to confirm with KS who arranges/appoints officials for club events – complete.

Paragraph 1634 – FC - S19 permit renewal for SCJS – awaits delivery.

Paragraph 1637 – FC to add IM as signatory for SCOA Bank account – ongoing.

1641 Chair's Report

JW had sent his apologies but had circulated a report to committee members prior to the meeting.

SCOA league scoring – Ken Ricketts has been doing this role for a very long time. JW said SCOA owes Ken a vote of thanks for all his work on this over the years. He has now stopped orienteering and has stepped down from the role and we need to find a replacement urgently. RS explained that it is not a massive job and that it involved taking the results file from the BOF results, extracting the SCOA runners and then updating the score on the SCOA website.

Action: Club Reps to recruit possible candidates for this role.

Spending some of the SCOA reserves

Because of an unexpectedly successful JK2019 and a similarly successful BOC/BRC 2023 the SCOA reserves are now substantial. JW suggested that the committee need to consider options to utilise those reserves for the good of the region and the sport. A lengthy discussion followed and several different options were discussed.

FC stated that the constitution permits – para 13 (d) – the executive committee may purchase equipment or services consistent with the development of orienteering. Additionally, the purpose of SCOA (para 4 (a), (c), (e) and (f)) is to encourage, promote and control the sport... to promote and support the SCOA JS, to facilitate the education and training of officials and mappers AND to provide financial backing to stage major events.

A lengthy discussion followed around the usual annual income, the usual annual expenditure and how much we need to keep in reserve to stay 'afloat' before the next regional major event. AK suggested this might be easier to establish at the next meeting when the 2023 final accounts will be available so we can consider the 2022 and 2023 accounts and have a more educated view of the situation.

Further discussion followed regarding possible suggestions of providing clubs with funds to purchase SIAC cards (SN – bid) or a suggestion from AK that it be used to fund remapping of areas. DR pointed out that SN needed to totally remap Ash Ranges for a forthcoming event and that was expected to cost between £4k and £6k so the current SCOA surplus would not go far. IM stated that he felt we need to invest the funds in increasing participation of young people in the sport.

DS mentioned the recently circulated email regarding purchasing 'Defib' machines for clubs and a discussion followed. It was concluded that as you need to be 2 minutes from an individual losing consciousness for the defib to be successfully utilised and that for smaller events this was unrealistic. At larger events clubs normally paid for 1st aid services. Maintenance was also an issue with the units. Each unit costs £800 - £1k.

The conclusion reached was that we need to establish what reserves we need to keep supporting the SCJS until the next major event. This will then establish exactly how much is available then consider the possible options.

Action: Club Reps to discuss with committee's views on how best to use the excess reserves to promote the sport.

1642 Treasurer's Report

FC had circulated both the Audited accounts for 2022 and a quarterly report detailing recent transactions and the current balances of all 3 SCOA accounts.

FC stated that since the last meeting in September she had completed the 2022 accounts and AK had audited them. The audited accounts had been circulated in advance of this meeting for review by committee members. These accounts had not been completed by the 2022 AGM in June due to the resignation of the Treasurer and the AGM had empowered the committee to approve the 2022 accounts. IM proposed that the committee accept the 2022 accounts, it was seconded by RS and agreed by the committee.

FC said there was one correction to the quarterly report and that there were now only 4 remaining level C+ events scheduled before the end of the year. Almost all the annual affiliation fees had been gathered (FC stated she was still trying to establish how to actually deposit the £24 cheque from WIGHTO) leaving only £2 due from RAFO.

1643 Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

1644 Fixtures

RS said that the 2023 SCOA Champs are being held at the TVOC Chiltern Challenge on 11th December. He had hoped to have 8 events for the forthcoming SCOA League but had to drop the West Wood event so there would be a total of 7 events in the league.

The BOF website is missing officials for several registered events, most pressing being the SN event on 29th December 2023 has no organiser or controller shown. **Action: DR to ensure BOF website updated with those officials.**

A long discussion followed as to which level B event to hold the 2024 SCOA champs at. RS suggested the BKO 2024 Concorde Chase, but entries had already opened on RSU and would not currently suit the needs to the championship as entries need to be by age groups not courses. DR asked why SN not asked to host, DS stated they had previously hosted them at Long Valley. DR then stated that SN are hosting the SEOA Champs at the SN Trophy December 2024 at Ash Ranges and it was concluded that holding the SCOA Champs at the same time would probably mean it would all get lost in multiple prize ceremonies. RS to go back to TVOC to suggest the 2024 Chiltern Challenge.

1645 Technical Officers Report

KS no longer attended the meeting but sent a report to FC who read it out.

KS has approved the officials for the 2024 Chiltern Challenge, no issues, all very experienced.

KS pointed out that there is a rule revision due on 1st January 2024 and that she has raised an issue with BOF about the lengths for Sprint and Urban events as the way they are

measured has changed to the shortest distance you can run rather than line distance. The tables of course lengths have remained the same as when their lengths were quoted as straight line. If they stayed as is, the outcome would be that courses will get shorter. This particularly impacts KS as she is planning the 2024 Concorde Chase weekend Urban race.

DS asked whether KS would be prepared to put on another Controller Course. SCOA are very short of qualified Controllers. **Action: FC to email question to KS**

1646 Coaching/Development

LY said she had not provided a report for this meeting and that she had mainly been following up on the individuals that had done the Coaching Course:

John Methven (BKO) has one or two sections to complete but has been working with the Junior Squad.

Mark Foxwell (BKO) will probably run out of time to complete his 6 linked sessions before having the final assessment. He has been busy planning and controlling events. FC stated that he did co-ordinate and deliver several midweek coaching sessions for BKO members and others in the summer.

Heidi Lloyd (TVOC) – has just to finish her folder.

DR asked what commitment SCOA ask of prospective coaches before sponsoring the course.

LY explained that they did not have a set amount but individuals who went to the effort to complete the course would be expected to, once qualified to either provide coaching in their clubs or with the Junior Squad.

LY stated that BOF are proposing to move their Level 2 coaching away from 1st4Sport.

IM/LY then discussed First Aid training. LY stated that they need to arrange some more courses before the end of 2024 as there will be a few people whose qualifications run out in 2024. DR asked whether SCOA members deliver those courses, but LY explained they have a lady in the New Forest who organises one day outdoor first aid courses and brings in qualified instructors to do it. Usual a course will be filled by members of 2 SCOA orienteering clubs.

1647 Junior Squad

SK had sent his apologies for absence but had circulated a SCJS update in addition to 4 reports from his athletes detailing their activities at training camps and events they had attended (sponsored by SCOA).

Adam Methven – EYOC and JWOC

Amelia Wing – Stockholm

Duncan Currie – Lagganlia

Tommy Rollins – JROS Tour to Czechia

IM pointed out that the SCJS did remarkably well at the JIRC Relays and would have won had one of them not mis-punched. DS said that lots of juniors have no idea what opportunities the juniors have by joining the Junior Squad. IM said that he would speak to SK about possibly putting some of the reports on the individual websites/newsletters.

The committee agreed that the Junior Squad should be congratulated for all their travels and hard work over the year. The next training session is scheduled for 16/17 December at Wilverley.

1648 The Orienteering Foundation Update

Alun Jones (TVOC) is the TOF champion for the SCOA region and had circulated an update to the committee prior to the meeting. The report was discussed by the committee and Club Reps were asked to share the report with their committees with a view to including some of it in Club Newsletters.

Action: Club Reps to share update with committees and ask for some to be included in Newsletters.

1649 AOB

SCOA League scoring – this AOB point was dealt with in the Chairs report.

RS asked DR to include in the promotion of the Hogmoor SCOL event that SCOA League needs someone to take over the scoring. **Action: DR to add to Hogmoor publicity.**

Funding bid from SN for SIAC's/Distribution of funds This was discussed in section **1641** and decided to revisit at the next meeting when a more measured view on how much is available to spend can be taken.

1650 Proposed dates of future meetings

Thursday 7th March 2024

Thursday 6th June 2024 AGM & Committee meeting

Thursday 5th September 2024

Fiona Clough

Secretary

9th December 2023