

Minutes of NWOA Club Delegate Meeting

Saturday 17th October 2015 Caton Village Institute

Present: Richard Tiley (LOC) - Chair, Dick Collins (SROC) – Hon. Sec, Steve Round (SELOC) - Treasurer, Mark Edwards (SROC), Christine Goulding (BL), Pete Kidd (SELOC), David Maliphant (BO/LOC). Dave McCann (MDOC), Pete Owens (DEE), Miriam Rosen (SROC) , Ian Smith-Ward (LOC), Paul Turner (SELOC) and Hamish Willis (PFO).

1. Apologies for absence

John Taylor (WCOC),

2. Minutes of CDM held on 27th June, 2015

These were accepted as a correct record. Prop. ISW, Sec. CG.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters not covered by later items.

4. Urban League

PT, who had agreed to act as Co-ordinator, presented proposals for the Urban League. Members were concerned with the fact that 'Urban' is not Junior-friendly. There is a need to encourage Juniors, so it would help if an event (e.g. in a park) could be included, which Juniors could do. However, an inability to put in a Junior course should not be a barrier and a Junior course is not mandatory. This means that it would not be possible to have a Junior League. Additionally, rules relating to Juniors should be interpreted sensibly, for example with regard to roads which could or could not be crossed. It was agreed that the prize fund should be £250.

5. BOC/BRC 2017

RT has talked to the High Dam land owners with agreement obtained from four of the five. The fifth is the National Park. Various individuals have been approached for help and to act in various capacities. Planning offers have been received. It was felt that a Club providing an area should have first refusal with regard to the Planner. John Britton will plan on High Dam. Other offers have been received from WCOC. It was intended that the relays would be at Summerhouse Knott.

Mike's e-News mentioned the possibility that individual Championships might be organized by a single Club (with the JK organized by an Association). This would have the effect of allowing the Club Organiser to be relatively free from interaction with BOF. However, the BOF Major Event Manager would be available if required, but would not necessarily be involved. Some sort of 'super-levy' would be introduced which would be cost-neutral when compared with the present financial arrangements.

6. Lakes 5-Day 2018

Clubs had been asked to suggest areas. CG offered High Pike and Askham Fell, MDOC offered Angle Tarn and LOC offered Graythwaite East. PO mentioned that Yewdale is always available, but access fees are high. It was hoped that there would be offers from WCOC.

There are no offers as yet for a Co-ordinator and the Exec. will need to deal with this. It was suggested that a Club, as opposed to an individual might act as a Co-ordinator if they were not putting on an individual day. SELOC/PFO were asked if they could do this but they would need to go back to their committees in the first instance.

With regard to the compensation scheme, there was discussion as to whether the balance between providing an area and the provision of person-power was correct. A shift might be needed towards helpers.

Action: Exec. - SELOC/PFO to be provided with Co-ordinator job description.

7. Recruitment

There has been an 8% increase overall in the North West, most of the increase being Adults. The Clubs which had gained most were asked for their comments.

WCOG reported that;

- i. They had tried four day-time events in winter and this was fairly successful.
- ii. They had introduced a Long Orange course to night events.
- iii. They had changed from a Fell Series to a Fell/Sprint/Park Series.
- iv. More emphasis on getting people to join. No Membership Fee and this had been very successful.
- v. Having an event every week is very popular.
- vi. They are aware that new members may not re-join and is the renewal time at the best time of year?

MDOC reported that;

- i. Their Saturday Summer events had resulted in increased membership.
- ii. Their Countryside Score events had NOT produced new members but did produce significant income.
- iii. The key to getting members is talking to people including offering Membership Packs which are available at all events.
- iv. Facebook and Twitter are useful.
- v. There has been a problem getting Juniors but there is a possibility of getting fifty Juniors which may have been 'lost' due to bureaucracy problems.
- vi. Five hundred permanent marker posts are having plates put on them with which a QR scanner will lead the viewer to an information page.
- vii. There is a problem in that orienteering has been removed from the National Curriculum (due to problems with consistency of assessment). However, there are good educational reasons for including orienteering in school activities. BOF have been inactive on this matter.

BL reported that;

- i. Junior recruitment has been successful, possibly as a result of regular Saturday morning events.
- ii. Junior Coaching is popular.
- iii. Monthly Club Nights in different locations.
- iv. A Facebook page has been set up.

8. Web Site

The New Web site is now live and has replaced the old site. At the moment access is only through RT. It is essentially a sign-post site, directing people elsewhere rather than containing large amounts of information. Problems for newcomers need to be addressed and this should include a 'jargon-buster'.

9. Sportlyzer

HW gave a presentation of the Sportlyzer Training Software. Sportlyzer is an Estonian company and PFO have been using their software for two or three years. The software began as an aid to coaching but is now a complete Club Management system. It has a variety of facilities and applications including coaching support, a diary system, financial management and communication systems. It is being used by various organizations and groups e.g. the Talent Squad, Nordic Skiing, Kayaking and Rowing groups. The cost to a medium-sized Club would be about €35 per month.

10. Any Other Business

DM (on behalf of BOF) thanked NW members who helped at the JK and the World Championships. The Association and Club Conference had discussed the future of orienteering over the next ten years. DM reported that the focus was on a 'new vision' for orienteering. There was a particular concern about a hole in the membership distribution for the 18-40 group. It was felt that this group would be attracted to well-crafted 'social' events, e.g. as put on by Red Bull. There was consideration of how to simplify events but no significant ideas on this. It was noted that orienteering is now a much broader term than it was twenty years ago, e.g. we now have Urban, Sprint, MTBO etc. On this theme the PFO Constitution now relates to O-related activities. There was concern that a lack of Major Event officials could be threatening the continuation of orienteering. BOF are implementing new policies regarding ;

- i. Making Orienteering safer.
- ii. Addressing anti-bullying concerns.
- iii. Tightening up Risk Assessments.

Date of next CDM – Saturday, 12th March 2016.