



BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WELSH ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

Venue:

DATE: Wednesday, 5th February 2014, 7.30pm

Venue: Online via Google Hangout

MINUTES

PRESENT: Pete Ribbans (Chair), David Pal, Robert Griffiths, Helena Burrows, Mark Saunders, Gabriella Walsh

Apologies – Anne May, Robert Dredge, Eunice Carter, Amy Peltor

1. Minutes of last business meeting. Passed as accurate representation of the meeting.
2. Matters arising, not covered below
 - 2013/24 RS: DONE
 - /27: EU fund called Leader. GW has emailed Philip Baxter (NI) but had no response so far. She will try again. **ACTION 2013/27: GW**
 - 2013/39 PR has sent figures to AP
 - 2013/40 Courses planned : Brown, Blue, Green, Light Green, Orange, Yellow
Stuart Rees - Planner, RG – Controller
 - 2013/41 Done
 - 2013/42 Discharged
 - 2013/43 MWOC have kindly agreed to combine Welsh Champs and VHI 2015. RG will plan the 2014 Nov MWOC event on a new area and so the embargo will be unaffected. RG will inform DP to change the location. Hoping to map 2 local areas before then so unsure which one.
 - 2013/44 Discussed later
 - 2013/45 GW has provisionally booked accommodation
 - 2013/46 SWOC will host 2016 Welsh Champs
 - 2013/47 Done
 - 2013/48 Discussed later
 - 2013/49 Discussed later
 - 2013/50 Older juniors have been approached
 - 2013/51 PR has done
 - 2013/52 RS has done and to be presented next Sunday (Kingswood event).
 - 2013/53 Done

2013/54 Produce copy of Y Ddraig. MS still hoping to get this done **ACTION 2013/54: MS**
2013/55 PR to talk to AP re possible funding for new Welsh tops. Not actioned yet. Need to carry forward **ACTION 2013/55: PR/AP**
2013/56 PR called meeting

3. Reports from Officers (for the period June to October 2013):

a) Report from the Treasurer (Amy Peltor)

Executive Summary and Treasurer's Report was sent out to all prior to meeting.

MS noted that the change to increase levy and reduce membership fees appears to be bringing in a similar income.

It was also noted that the current overall income more than covered the outgoings and the surplus was sufficient to meet other items such as club development initiatives.

AP asked in the report that the budget for 2015 be agreed and submitted to the AGM for approval. She also proposed that the subscriptions and levies be unchanged for 2015.

Both of these were agreed by the meeting.

b) Report from the Secretary (Vacant) – no report

c) Report from the Fixtures Secretary (David Pal)

Fixtures Secretary's Report was sent out to all prior to meeting.

The fixtures secretary needs to know date of Croeso 2016 by October BO fixtures meeting at the latest. Provisionally starting 31 July - Consideration is being given to clash with World Masters in Estonia starting on following Sunday. Possibly Oringen and schools clash the previous week. Will be discussed with SBOC and DP informed by March 2014 **ACTION 2014/01: MS**

WOA asked to run Senior Home international in 2016, but none keen. HB offered to liaise regarding accommodation, if DEE will organise the event on Newborough. DP to contact DEE. **ACTION 2014/02: DP**

2015 Welsh League MWOC – VHI/W Champs + 1 other, SBOC 2 events, SWOC 2 events. No response from Eryri regarding staging an event.

d) Report from the Membership Secretary (Anne May)

The number of people that have renewed so far seems to be a typical percentage. It is difficult to analyse trends unless numbers are compared to the same point in the previous year.

e) Report from the Development Officer (Mark Saunders)

Development Officer's Report was sent out during the meeting (enclosed – see at end).

No new grants were awarded in 2013. MWOC & SBOC awarded funding in 2012 MWOC reported back upon the funding. Spending had differed from application, partly because of following other club's actions. Need to share good practice.

MS proposed inviting clubs to apply for funds, possibly throughout the year. There was concern that this could lead to all the development money being overspent. MS suggested

that certain categories such as volunteer resource might have a higher subsidy than say mapping or SI MS to provide more guidance. **ACTION 2014/03: MS**
MS had been to all clubs last year. Nothing had been heard from Eryri since then with regard to development needs. Need to contact Eryri. Understand Sue Norris is no longer ERYRI secretary.

Anne Darlington to be contacted by MS re development

ACTION 2014/04: MS

John Ellis to be contacted by PR re WOA links

ACTION 2014/05: PR

Possibility of Satellite club in Carmarthen. Bridget S to be contacted for budget proposals

ACTION 2014/06: MS

Ensure TROT not to be overlooked (Richard Barrett)

RS had reported that SOA have a volunteers Weekend (coaches etc.) topical sessions and then fun events. It was suggested that WOA could benefit from something similar and MS agree to look into this as a possibility for Autumn 2014. HB suggested to contact Lynne Walker or Hilary Quick from SOA for advice. **ACTION 2014/07: MS**

f) Report from the Mapping Officer (Robert Griffiths)

Nothing to report.

g) Report from the Information Officer (Roger Stein) – no report

Information Officer's Report was sent out to all prior to meeting.

h) Report from the Coaching Officer (Helena Burrows)

Coaching Officer's Report was sent out to all prior to meeting.

4 people are currently being assessed for level 2. Need to encourage new level 1 applications.

HB also stated that the all planned coaching courses including the 2014 courses at Plas Y Brenin had been cancelled pending a review of the coaching structure.

HB also mentioned that all coaches need to update their logs to maintain their coaching qualification.

i) Report from the Schools Liaison Advisor (Bridget Stein).

There was miscommunication with regard to BS taking over the role from Mair Tomos. As a result BS has effectively just started.

4. Reports from advisors

a. Report from the Junior Squad Manager (Mark Saunders)

Report was sent out during the meeting (enclosed – see at end).

The award of sole catering rights has prevented selling of cakes at JK

b. Report from the Senior Squad Manager (Ed Nicholas).

Report was sent out to all prior to the meeting (enclosed).

A comprehensive report shown the successes with the senior squad. It is creditable that Welsh Orienteers are now in GB squad which has much to do with the investment previously in the Welsh junior squad.

c. Report from the Veteran Squad Manager (Sophie Brown)

No report received.

d. Report from the Welsh League Coordinator (David Seward)

No report received.

5. News from British Orienteering

6. Any other business

a. 2014 AGM

It was agreed to either have the AGM on SBOC mid summer weekend (21st June) or alternatively in conjunction with the MWOC Nash Woods event on the 11th May. PR to contact SBOC re possible venue first.

ACTION 2014/08: PR

b. WOA Orienteer and Volunteer of the year.

RS mentioned in his report that we have not put forward nominations for the above. It was agreed that in order that these could be presented at the Welsh Champs that nominations would need to be in by the 9th Feb and voting by the 16th Feb. PR to organise.

ACTION 2014/09: PR

c. The Business Essentials course last year in Newport had been cancelled. All accepted that PR goes to Bristol for next course.

d. AP queried the WOA funding of Kris Jones for the Level 2 coaching course. MS stated that he had helped coach on the Junior squad tour to Sweden last year and was expected to continue involvement in the future. There have been previous instances of coaching courses being part funded by WOA so we are not setting a precedent.

7. Date of next meeting

This will follow the 2014 AGM. Date time and venue to be confirmed along with that.

WOA Development Officer Report Feb 2014

No new development grants made in 2013. Treasure's report allows for £2,500 – but also shown as a "liability". I think this reflects Amy's expectation that grants would be made, tho' I am not aware of any commitment having been made.

In part, the non award of money in money was a result of a concern that WOA might need to utilise some of the available pot (ex Croeso) to fund a Coordinator for the next Croeso. With the agreement of Mark Saunders to co-ordinate 2016 in voluntary capacity, this is no longer an impediment.

In part it was also a realisation that the clubs had actually struggled to spend the money they had previously been granted on the things they had anticipated spending it on.

So for example;

MWOC have provided a good report on where they have spent the money awarded in 2012 (for 2013). But a significant part of that expenditure has not gone where they expected – and some arguably not really "development". And certainly not 50% funded by the club. For example they had expected to spend £900 on

Publicity initiatives and £1000 to fund coaches to run some new local introductory events. They spent only a small portion of that.

And yet of course MWOC have been particularly active. Non-spend has actually been a reflection of the huge amount of voluntary effort. The intended local training events did happen – but run by volunteers. Much work has similarly gone into supporting schools and scout orienteering. Whilst this level of effort may not yet be reflected in their membership figures, if the number of new families I saw at their recent Nant Y Arian event is anything to go by, then that will surely happen.

I have not received a report from SBOC on how they have spent the money awarded for 2013 (but then, I haven't asked!) However I suspect they have spent more in accord with their plans, because a large part of that was for specific capital items like mapping, oCAD, and membership packs. Again it should be noted that a series of additional local events were delivered and they now have the capability to deliver more quality street events.

SWOC have not fully spent the money they were awarded in 2010. And yet they have also supplemented their local events with additional coaching and in recent years introduced local evening street races. All supported on a voluntary basis. These initiatives seem to be paying off with a slight resurgence in membership in the Cardiff area – including even some novice 21s.

So how should we invest the development money we have - £24K over the next three years?

1. Local initiatives - The clubs and their volunteers are key. WOA should support without trying to micro-manage. Request bids for 2014. Bids by end of May. Expectation that clubs will spend as per their bid. WOA to fund 50%. MAS to produce proposal for guidance on eligible items. E.g. Volunteer development, publicity materials, New Member materials etc. Controversial items might be things like Equipment spend, Mapping.
2. Central initiatives
 - a. Possible bid by Bridget Stein for a South West Wales development - may or may not be supported by SBOC
 - b. Volunteer Weekend – on Scottish Model – MAS to look at possibility of setting something up for Autumn 2014

Welsh Junior Squad Report Feb 2014

Since last WOA Meeting (October)

In November took 11 youngsters (16s + 14s) to JROS Hawkshead training weekend in Lake District. As ever with controls put out in forest already for us, a good chance for Alice and I to spend time on the actual coaching with the youngsters in nice technical terrain. Assisted by Sander Vaher of SBOC.

Training day in the Wyre forest at end of November.

Training day at Coed Maenarthur in January

Planned sessions in the spring;

Feb 8th Forest of Dean – day before Welsh League at King's Wood

Feb 26th – 28th (half term) 3 days training on Gower prior to Welsh Champs w/e

Mar 22/23rd Lake District

Apr 14th-18th – Pre JK Training camp. Including putting on an event at Clydach, and an open training day. Partly as fund raiser, partly to support JK effort – making JK more attractive. N.B. disappointed that we will not be allowed to sell cakes at JK - Exclusive catering contract having been sold to Taste of Wales for several thousand pounds, but hopeful that we might receive some sort of donation.

May 10th – Mid Wales – day before Cwpan Yddraig / Yvette Baker Qualifier / Welsh League

Jun 7/8th (TBC) Shropshire

Formally have lost a number of last year 18s from last year – now 20s. But keeping them involved, invited to training camps etc.

Mark Saunders