



Quantock Orienteers - Minutes of Committee Meeting

8th June 2015 at Hearn Cottage, Triscombe

1 Attendees

1.1 Attendees and apologies

Bob Lloyd (Chairman), Roger Craddock (Treasurer), Richard Sansbury (Secretary), Bill Vigar, Vikki Page, Chris Hasler, Rosie Wych, Julia Robertson, Spencer Modica (for 2nd half of meeting only) & Gavin Clegg (non-committee).

Apologies from Mark Maynard.

2 Previous Meeting on 13th January

2.1 Approval of Minutes

These were approved with no changes.

2.2 Actions arising:

Actions from meeting on 3rd March 2014:

Item 7.3: Issue Vivary maps to ranger - action Mark. No news [Post meeting note - was done!]

Actions from meeting on 20th October 2014:

Item 6.4: Obtain DBS check - action Bob. Done. Chris & Vikki also have been DBS checked. There may be others in the club who should also have DBS checks.

Actions from last meeting:

Item 4.1: Write QuOnicle article on pictorial descriptions - action Julia. Not done.

Item 4.1: Organise SI set-up training - action Andy. See item 8.

Item 4.1: Update Organiser guide - action Richard. All guides now updated to reflect latest safety rules, but without input from Steve yet, can be revised again if necessary.

Item 4.1: Test plastic map paper - action Rosie/Bill. Samples were tabled at the meeting. The plastic paper is very robust but "floppy". These had been printed on a different printer and it was suggested that the problem of ink rubbing off at creases could be more to do with the printer than the paper. It was agreed that for QOFLs we would try the alternative printer on our usual paper to see if this solves the problem. No change for JOG.

Item 4.1: Get opinions on QOAD - action Richard. Done, see item 4.3.

Item 4.2: Find parking for QOFL5 - action Rosie. Done.

Item 4.2: Set date for club champs - action Rosie/Julia. Done - will be 11 July.

Item 4.3: Book date for Long-O - action Julia. Done - will be 3&4 October.

Item 6.2: Reply to Jeff on volunteering matters - action Richard. Done.

Item 7.2: Investigate use of Tetton House estate - action Bob. Not done.

Item 7.2: Investigate use of Bagborough Wood - action Bob. Done - see item 7.2.

Item 7.2: Identify suitable new areas of Cothelstone - action Rosie. Done - will be used in club championships.

Item 7.3: Send list of permanent courses to Jeff - action Richard. Done.

Item 8: Identify signs needed by JOG - action Roger. Done - see item 8.

Item 9.1: Sketch out web pages - action Spencer. Not done.

Item 9.1: Find kit colour codes - action Roger. Done.

Item 9.1: Find out what's in BOK & Devon member areas - action Richard/Rosie. Done for BOK, not done for Devon.

Item 9.2: Add Communications to agenda - action Richard. Done.

3 Finance

3.1 Finance report

Roger presented the finance report, see Appendix 1. This is almost the full account for the year and shows that finances are very close to the budget.

There had been an increase in membership, and fees income has covered the membership costs.

It was agreed to increase the subsidy for QO tops so that the price would be £30 each.

It was agreed that the recommendation to the AGM would be keep membership fees for 2016 the same as for 2015.

4 Fixtures

4.1 Report on recent events

QOFL5 Crowcombe Heathfield - Attendance had been down due to foul weather and the Easter holidays. It was suggested that the Easter holidays should be avoided but it was noted this did not affect attendance at QOFL6. There had been a problem with one corner of the map - now resolved.

QOFL6 Great Breech Wood - Recent felling required some last minute course changes, but this was resolved in time. There had been some dispute about where the start tent was to be - it was not clear which official was to be obeyed! The organiser had been struggling to find helpers but there was a surplus of helpers on the day. The changeover to the second shift was late, it was important that helpers know what times they are expected to start and finish. If there are any lessons for the organiser guide then anyone can let Richard know.

4.2 Plans for future events

Club Champs - JOG will combine with the club champs, but a simple linear course will be available for those not ready to try a score event. A flyer has been drafted but some details still need to be finalised. It was agreed to use the entry fees as for a QOFL. Richard to send scoring spreadsheet used last year - Action Richard. Roger to pay for the West Bagborough Village Hall - Action Roger

Long-O Saturday - 3rd October. This will be on the Quantocks starting at Wilmot's Pool with Bill planning 1/2/3 hour courses and Richard controlling. This will be in parallel with JOG, Mark will be asked if he is willing to plan - Action Rosie.

Long-O Sunday - 4th October. This will be on Exmoor with Martin Longhurst planning. Julia needs the details to register the event - Action Rosie.

QOFL series 2015-16 - 5 dates set but it was proving difficult to find a 6th Sunday. It was agreed that we should have a 6th QOFL, if necessary on a Saturday. A Saturday in March would fit the programme well. It was agreed to keep the team structure with Roger, Chris and Jeff as team leaders. Venues and 6th date to be selected, liaising with Judy - Action Julia.

SWOA anniversary Saturday 21st November - no further news.

Southern Night Championships and Galoppen late 2016 - A discussion paper had been circulated, see Appendix 2. It was agreed that Richard will plan both the night and Galoppen based at Ramscombe. Julia is looking for suggestions for a controller. Ideally the same Controller for both events but that may not be achievable.

Galoppen early 2016 - It was agreed to use St Audries.

4.3 Future of QOAD

A discussion paper had been circulated - see Appendix 3. Options were to cancel the series, adopt changes or carry on as at present. If it continues the series needs the support of the committee. It was suggested that as the club has recently won the right to stage a prestigious night competition the club needs to keep night orienteering going. It was agreed that the series will continue, and adopt the recommendations of the discussion paper.

5 Activities

5.1 Junior Orienteering Group

JOG had recently been to Thurlbear, Netherclay, Wind Down, Culm Davy, Kings College and Staple Hill. Planners had made great efforts to put on interesting exercises.

Numbers over the summer have been a bit disappointing - holidays and other summer activities mean fewer people are available to come to JOG compared to winter. Not many adults were attending to make the advanced courses worthwhile. It was noted however that JOG is not being advertised as suitable for adults. The website listing would be changed to correct this for the remainder of the term - Action Julia. At the end of the current term a review of JOG in the summer would be carried out.

5.2 Coaching

Since the last meeting one coaching session had taken place at Culm Davy but only a few attended of the usual eight. Two more sessions were arranged for this term. The children have grown in confidence, so the coaching has been well worth doing.

6 People

6.1 Membership

Membership currently stands at 50 seniors, 23 families and 4 juniors.

2 seniors, 5 families and 1 junior have not renewed their membership for this year.

6.2 Volunteering

Jeff had asked around the club for volunteers willing to check permanent courses. Jeff had found people willing to do this for all courses in QO's area, and a list had been circulated.

Jeff sent the following report:

I have yet to give out instructions to the Taunton and Yeovil checkers but the Street and West Somerset area group of checkers have been briefed by me and Wimbleball and Selworthy have already been visited (no problems encountered yet).

Looking forward to getting a fixture list for next season when it becomes available then I can start asking around for volunteers. So far only 2 positive responses for QOFL officials for next season, Brian Fletcher has volunteered to plan Ham Hill (if we use it) and Jim Nickolls can plan in the Blackdowns. I can get a list of QOFL teams into the July QuOnicle unless that's thought to be too early.

I'm keeping up to date the helpers list for organisers and logging who's helped and when.

Unremarkably, I've had no response to the QuOnicle ad for a new secretary and treasurer!

Please pass my appreciation onto the committee for all the hard work they're doing for the club.

6.3 Club Captain

A big QO team took part in the CompassSport Cup heat. QO came 2nd to Wimborne. The enthusiasm shown was great to see, and this summed up the positive spirit of the club.

A QO junior team took part in the Yvette Baker heat. This went well, it was a good day out. Although QO did not qualify it was a big day out for many QO juniors.

The SWOA summer relay series is imminent and several teams had been formed already.

The committee thanked Chris for doing a good job.

6.4 Next year's officials and committee

Mike had announced he was stepping down as President.

Roger had said he wanted to step down as Treasurer. Steve Robertson had said he

would be willing to take on the Treasurer role but not until the new year. Roger is willing to continue as Treasurer until that time.

Richard and Mark had announced they were stepping down from the committee. This left a vacancy for the Secretary role. No-one else currently on the committee was willing to take this role next year. This will need to be reconsidered before the AGM.

Gavin said he was willing to join the committee if the club was agreeable to that. However he could not consider taking on a role such as that of Secretary for at least a few months as he was new to the club.

There were others who might be willing to return to the committee. Richard to make approaches - Action Richard.

Because of the impending Secretary vacancy, an email should be sent to all members to request a volunteer - Action Roger.

7 Places

7.1 Mapping

Bill has acquired some Lidar data for QO's areas, but this was not always complete. One area for which data was complete was Kingscliff, hence a proposal had already been made to the committee to overhaul the map. It was agreed that as Kingscliff was not suitable for a Galoppen then our lead mappers' efforts should prioritise the bigger events. However this might make a good project for others and will be investigated - action Spencer/Gavin.

There is a potential extension to Castle Neroche, called Middlemarsh. This will be investigated - Action Bill/Bob.

Gavin proposed an urban map of Bridgwater, and in fact had already done much of the work, and had even met with key Town Councillors and got their support. This could be used for the Western Night League, for example. Gavin was thanked for this initiative and has the committee's support.

7.2 Permissions

Bob had sent the following report:

All event permissions have been obtained up to and including the Club Champs on 11th of July.

However, final approvals of the parking proposals for the Ash Priors Common JOG and Club Champs parking are still awaited, although initial responses for both were very positive.

Regarding the suggested use of Frieze Hill Community Orchard as an extension to Long Run Meadow, general permission has been given for junior training events, with some minor conditions that should not affect us. However, before it can be used as an extension to the Long Run Meadow permanent course the chairperson of the Frieze Hill Community Orchard Group would like to meet someone from the club on site to discuss that matter further. General permission for the use of the area east of the Silk Mills Park and Ride, to add to Frieze Hill, is being sought.

General permission has been obtained for the use of the triangular area of Bagborough Plantation immediately next to the Lydeard Hill to Wills Neck main track and NW of the high deer fence. The only condition is that we may not be able to use it on certain Wednesdays.

Investigations for other areas are in the pipeline.

7.3 Permanent Courses

Fyne Court seems to have been missed from the permanent courses. Publicity for permanent courses could be better. For example these could be promoted to schools by Twitter - Action Vikki.

Jeff has found lots of people to check courses. It was agreed that we need to find an overall coordinator for this checking work. Richard to ask Jeff if he can find someone - Action Richard.

8 Equipment

Andy had sent the following report:

I am happy to host a SI training session for interested parties - Robert Green was particularly interested along with Steve Robertson. There will certainly be others.

I have previously sent v3.0 of my spreadsheet for printing out 'on the day' course details for organisers to some parties. Is this now to be adopted for next season? - if so it needs linking to the web-site users page.

I have made a keyboard for up to 60 sets of keys! Grand unveiling at club champs!

Our anti-virus software for the PCs is due for renewal- I will purchase licenses and update next week.

I have been keeping track of battery levels in SI boxes- levels vary of course between boxes depending on how much the box has

been used in our events- some will be requiring lithium battery renewal over the coming season. i will do this myself

I have purchased new event direction signs. Not all of what we wanted- we had the last of the BO stock and they will not be supplying again due to low demand- however they kindly mailed their artwork so we can print our own if necessary as required. Corex plastic card can be purchased widely and is relatively cheap.

I have done a stock check and I have 54 useable kites with backup punches. About 10 are looking rather tired. I don't know how many the Craddocks hold or if they have punches or not- they will suffice for QOFLs etc but the committee will have to decide if we need to purchase more for the galoppens/night champs events.

There might be demand for a basic SI operator session and an advanced SI set-up session. It was agreed that SI training sessions would be best scheduled on Friday evenings in the autumn/winter to allow practice in realistic conditions and to reduce "skill fade". Dates to be proposed - Action Rosie.

It was agreed we do not need to replace kites at this time.

9 Communications

9.1 Website

Spencer had not yet produced the mock-up pages. Although the club had a quote from Nathan, the club needed to firm up on details before going ahead. Spencer had not yet put together a specification to get re-quoted.

9.2 QuOnicle colour printing

An email discussion had concluded there was no consensus in support of full colour printing.

It was proposed that the club should discontinue offering members the option of a printed copy. A vote was taken and this was passed by majority of 5 to 4. It was agreed that this will be announced at the AGM. Adrian and Mike need to be told - Action Richard.

9.3 BOF - Mike's E-news

Recent changes in safety rules include a non-negotiable ban on under 16s crossing or walking along public roads unless supervised. This applies even on the way to the start. For example this will apply to the club champs.

QO guidance notes had been updated accordingly.

Bob will summarise future E-news for the committee.

10 Any other business

10.1 Prizes

Gavin said he had won an offer for accommodation for the Porto City Race this September but would not be using it, and therefore would be offering this as a prize at the club championships.

It was agreed that the Dave Holmes trophy, currently held by Gavin for winning the Taunton urban race in 2013, would be reused as a club awarded at the Chairman and/or President's discretion to an individual who has worked hard for the club.

Approved
Bob Lloyd
(Chair)

Actions arising

Actions from previous meeting on 9th March 2015:

Item 4.1: Write QuOnicle article on pictorial descriptions - action Julia

Item 7.2: Investigate use of Tetton House estate - action Bob

Item 9.1: Sketch out web pages - action Spencer

Item 9.1: Find out what's on the Devon website member area - action Rosie

Actions from this meeting:

Item 4.2: Send club champs scoring to Rosie - action Richard

Item 4.2: Pay for the Village Hall - action Roger

Item 4.2: Ask Mark to plan Long-O JOG - Action Rosie

Item 4.2: Give Julia Long-O details - Action Rosie

Item 4.2: Select QOFL venues and 6th QOFL date - Action Julia

Item 5.1: Advertise JOG as suitable for adults - Action Julia

Item 6.4: Ask if others are willing to return to the committee - Action Richard

Item 6.4: Email club about secretary vacancy - Action Roger

Item 7.1: Investigate remapping Kingscliff - Action Spencer/Gavin

Item 7.1: Investigate use of Middlemarsh - Action Bill/Bob

Item 7.3: Promote permanent courses via Twitter - Action Vikki

Item 7.3: Ask Jeff to find a permanent course coordinator - Action Richard

Item 8: Propose dates for SI training - Action Rosie

Item 9.2: Inform Adrian & Mike about QuOnicle decision - Action Richard

Appendices: Club officers' reports

Appendix 1: Finance report

Appendix 2: Southern Nights discussion paper

Appendix 3: QOAD discussion paper

Appendix 1: Finance report

QO Budget 2012 - 2015										
Year	2010/11	2010/11	2011/12	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15
	(actual)		(actual)		(actual)		(actual)		(actual)	
INCOME										
Event entries	4500	4858	5000	5327	5500	5147	6000	5415	6000	5978
Membership subs	500	670	700	651	670	592	600	596	800	672
JOG	400	660	600	900	1000	763	1500	1387	1500	1098
clothing sales	300	217	350	363	400	130	400	731	400	140
Misc income. Map sales, food	220	222						479	500	869
Grants & Mapping. Equip.Hire		926		1695	1500	2193	1000	405	400	125
TOTAL income	£5,920	£7,553	£6,650	£8,936	£9,070	£8,825	£9,500	£9,013	£9,400	£8,882
EXPENDITURE										
Event expenditure	1000	868	1000	634	800	732	800	1445	1200	1079
Map printing. Paper/Toner	600	436	600	1027	1000	997	1000	905	1000	1168
Access fees	300	253	500	180	500	505	700	355	700	667
Mapping						135	200			
JOG. Maps, equipment, events	500	1115	500	1074	1000	720	500	566	750	959
Levies, BO & SWOA	450	364	400	576	1300	881	1400	1135	1500	1608
Development	500	413	400	290	400	530	500			174
Computing, webgadget, website	322	416	322	126	200	213	300	275	300	1253
Quonicle	300	316	300	340	350	290	250	246	250	174
New equipment	400	608	300	478	500	1633	1500	824	1000	524
AGM, entry fees, committee	348		200	37	100	460	400	342	400	838
Trophies	100	48	100	81	100	54	200	140	200	55
Clothing purchases	400	227	100			307	600	1151	600	206
Food, subsidies for food		184	100	233	200	10	50	500	500	657
BOF Membership fees for QO	50	52	60	55	60	46	50	46	50	46
TOTAL expenditure	£5,220	£5,300	£4,882	£5,131	£6,510	£7,513	£8,450	£7,930	£8,450	£9,408
Contingency	700	2253	1768	3805	2560	1312	1050	1083	950	
Roger Craddock 08/06/2015										

1. Subscriptions are up. Increased membership? The donations include £300 from SASP for schools festivals.
 2. Membership fees more than cover our expenses for supplying member services.
 3. QOFL's continue to be our most profitable events, with the galoppen providing the greatest income, but attracting large access, parking and levy charges. Our 50% subsidy of relay teams seems to be sustainable.
 4. We are beginning to feel the effect of B.O./SWOA levy fees and increasing access charges.
 5. The loss sustained in the food items is due to subsidising families at the Christmas Novelty.
 6. We have a stock of QO tops, but we cannot afford to increase subsidies further.
 7. The large SI expenditure includes the renewal of a 5 year licence and replacement of stolen poles. JOG is using canes in public areas now.
 8. JOG events continue to recruit new members for QO, and is breaking even despite reducing costs to members and lack of grants obtained this year.
 9. We have a balance of £12,728 in the Deposit account.
- We need to make a recommendation to the AGM about subscriptions. I see no reason to change.
- We need to appoint a new treasurer. I am prepared to hand over when a new volunteer becomes available.

Appendix 2: Southern Night Championships

QO is going to host the Southern Night Championships on 26th November 2016 with our Galoppen the next day to make it a weekend.

Before we made the bid I offered to plan the night event, and if no-one else is willing, to organise it as well. This offer still stands. We don't have to decide that yet, but we do need to select the location.

Venues have been suggested as follows:

- St Audries
- Ramscombe (or is it Rams Combe?)

Although St Audries is not a bad venue, in my opinion Ramscombe is the superior venue for the following reasons:

1. From the same base Ramscombe offers the possibility of 2 different areas for the 2 events
2. Although the woods in the Ramscombe valley are generally not very runnable, it has good access to large areas of classic orienteering terrain, i.e. runnable woodland with plenty of features. St Audries is mostly rough open with a relatively small area of woodland (some of which has recently been clear-felled)
3. If the weather is poor (quite likely for a November night!) Ramscombe offers some natural shelter.
4. Ramscombe has permanent facilities we should be able to use.

One major snag to Ramscombe is that someone lives in the area, and may object to the night time disturbance. Ramscombe is normally locked overnight.

A possibility at Ramscombe is the use of Great Wood Camp. This would be an excellent base with large rooms for registration, socialising and prize giving etc and avoids cars driving past the house in the woods. Previously we have found renting the camp to be prohibitively expensive, but over a 2-day weekend this will be more cost effective. We could even sell overnight accommodation to help cover costs. Also new signage suggests this is under new local management so maybe we could get a better deal.

Richard Sansbury 19th May 2015.

Appendix 3: QO After Dark series

At the last committee meeting there was an action on me to get opinions from club members on QOAD series in the light of Roger & Judy's decision to discontinue organising and in view of the very low attendances this year.

I wrote to all adult QO members who had attended a QOAD event in the 2014-15 season and I asked a series of questions. There were only 13 of us in this category. I did not ask the 14 adults from other clubs. I had 6 responses plus I added my own, (50% is fairly good compared to other QO surveys I have done in the past).

Here are the questions I asked together with all the responses:

1. Would you like the QOAD series to continue?

I would like the QOAD series to continue. I have been a big fan from the start and have always participated whenever I can

Yes

Generally it's been fun having the night-O but I'd say "No" and abandon the series.

Yes - I would like to see them continue. It means I, and other like-minded fellows, can retain that night experience for the bigger events without having to travel too far.

Yes

Yes

Yes

2. Do you think a single planner-controller is acceptable, or in your view do we need a separate planner and controller for safety reasons?

I am not happy with the one controller idea, especially if we don't have Judy and Roger as base camp. I have had my concerns about safety for some time about collecting in controls after the event. I think it would be much safer to collect the following day.

Single planner/organiser acceptable. There are usually other people around. Not started runners, finished runners, non runners etc.

We currently have a single planner-controller don't we? And we're all getting more proficient at it. Though adding a controller would add yet more scarce volunteer hours to staging the event. The loss of the organiser is too great a burden, though. Roger and Judy took a personal interest in it and wanted to support Will originally. That's gone now, so scrap the series, at least in its current format.

I don't think a single planner/organiser is sensible or acceptable. For safety reasons alone it is better to have a separate planner and organiser. It should be highlighted that the organisational part will be very small if the QOAD-JOG link is maintained. Roger and Judy do just about everything for the JOG event beforehand, so it should be just a matter of running the laptop for registration/download and packing up afterwards.

When planning a JOG/QOAD event I have sometimes been out moving controls or removing JOG controls not used for the QOAD and not been at registration when the first QOAD competitors arrive! Even when I have returned before the first competitors, if Roger and Judy were to leave after the JOG had finished, it would mean leaving the tent and other equipment un-attended for some time.

The events are low key and a single planner is adequate. But the OPTION 2 for a non-running Organiser for each event I think is essential. So up front if the series is to continue we need to get buy in from those wanting to take part so that they all either plan or organise one event during the short series. Total of 8 officials (see 5 below where my suggestion is for only 4 events) for any one series doesn't sound too big a deal.

I reckon a planner and organiser would be best

We should have two non-runners in attendance to deal with any emergency

3. Does it matter to you that there is low attendance?

It matters a lot to me that there is low attendance. It is a lot of work to create an event and it is disappointing if you only get single figure attendance. As was said recently, it's a niche part of a niche sport. I think there is a minimum level that we need for viability. At least 12.

Only matters if operating at a loss

Yes. It's pointless pouring all our time resources into something that is not at all popular. It also puts a greater burden on the planner who sweats on getting enough control collectors. The experience for novices, improvers, youngsters and older people isn't great- there's not enough easy controls and too many out of reach. Will's scoring system benefits the best runners and penalises the novices disproportionately. Night orienteering is intrinsically risky and families have nicer things to do on Saturday evening.

No - as you say, it's not everyone's favourite, but it does cater for those who do enjoy running at night without having to travel too far.

Yes, but not really.

Not really as long as there are enough people to get the controls in

Yes. Less than 10 is very disappointing for the planner/organiser

4. What changes could we make that would mean you attend more regularly?

I already attend as much as I can.

Better calendar booking, i.e. no clashes with other local night events / National night events

I attend regularly. I think the events are reasonably fun, the social element is good but a big reason for attending is supporting a local orienteering event which needs support because of all the hours put into setting it up - and that's the wrong reason.

Perhaps you could consider making one of the events a street event on one of the Taunton areas. Using 'street furniture' as clues to write down answers, the format would have to be slightly different in that competitors would have to return to the start/finish after they have done enough (or all) of the first colour controls to collect the map of second colour controls. This could be run with a single planner/organiser as there would be no controls to put out/collect in. However, there could be a problem with children!

Make them only on days I am available!!!!!!

Maybe a shorter start window as it only takes one latecomer to mean a bit of hanging around for others if they are collecting controls.

Avoid clashes with other events

5. Any other suggestions?

Sadly I think we have to seriously consider the future of the event. We are a small club and there is only so much we can do. There are other clubs offering night events. So my suggestions are: a) Cut to 3 events per season, b) Look to join up with other local clubs to be part of a night league series, c) Look at street night events which might be more popular. These were tried a few years ago and were well attended.

I feel planning and setting out JOG as well as QOAD puts a lot of pressure on organiser. Qoads on their own are simple to organise as there are no strict guide lines (unlike say, a white course) this may put off people planning.

I think the club has big enough commitments in the QOFL and JOG series and shouldn't be getting involved in this sort of thing, with so few doing all the work. We're a small club effectively run from a small county town, unlike neighbouring clubs who have cities. The Night-O itch has been scratched but it's time to move on.

I know you have tried this before, but could you try again to get one of the QOAD events included into the Western Night League (on a regular basis)?

Perhaps a series of 4 with best 3 to count (unless we get such a good response that we can have more). I know it sounds a bit feeble but if it's all we can manage.

The existing format is good and should be continued. It was good of Roger and Judy to keep the tent up but it may be better to not to bother with it and run it from car(s)

The series is more viable when we attract people from outside the club. This means scheduling to avoid clashes with the neighbours, especially Western Night League

Survey conclusions:

1. There is a group who want the series to continue but it is very small.
2. Some of this group, but not all, feel that there are too few attending
3. Most of this group think we should have 2 officials involved per event.
4. The group have made the following suggestions for improvement:
 - avoid clashes with other night leagues, or join in!
 - reduce the number of events in the series
 - use some urban venues as less organiser effort
 - reduce the start time window

Recommendation:

Unless the committee feel the QOAD series is too risky or undermines other work of the club, it would be rather mean to cancel the series outright. However I do not think the series can continue on the present basis. Instead continue the series but adopt some or all the changes suggested.

My comments on the individual suggestions:

- QO could possibly join forces with Devon as the Devon-Cornwall night league seems to be abandoned by Cornwall, and Devon's night events are also low attended.
- QO is a bit far away from the Western night league to merge with it, but it should be possible to arrange one event to be included in the Western league.
- probably 4 events is the minimum for a QO only series, but better to join in with another club to have a fuller series of 5 or 6.
- perhaps have one or two urban nights per year, but this loses the connection with JOG
- a reduced start window 45-60 minutes after sunset should be sufficient

Richard Sansbury 19th May 2015.