

Quantock Orienteers

Minutes for QO Committee Meeting

19.30 Wednesday 12th February at Staplegrove Village Hall, Taunton

1	<p>Start (1930)</p> <p>In attendance: Steve Robertson, Sheila Braine, Ray Toomer, Richard Sansbury, Pete Shirvington, Andrew Hopkins, Karen Lewis and Miffy Treherne</p> <p>Apologies from: Ollie Rant,</p> <p>Minutes from previous meeting – approved.</p>	
2	<p>Matters Arising –</p> <p>Steve will mention at the next SWOA meeting to confirm that QO are still interested in helping at British Sprint Champs.</p>	
3	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See attached finance reports <p>If we pay for the use of the area, generally we are subsidising JOG events and if we don't pay for the use of the area, we are breaking even on events. Generally, a QOFL is breaking even depending on the land fees we have to pay. If want to do any development work, we may need to consider looking at charges. CSC, with the numbers that are booked, may see a small profit.</p>	Steve
4.	<p>Places</p> <p>- Mapping – Steve has been concentrating on CSC and not had much time on mapping. He is the process of updating Broomfield, Ramscombe POC now ready. Chris and Brian are having issues with the quality of printing. We may need to look at the printers again.</p> <p>Use of Maidenbrook Country Park for informal activity on Sat 8 th March. (The local authority has been developing a new country park (30 Acres) in Taunton near Monkton Heathfield. We've established a good rapport with the enthusiastic Ranger. As the site matures it could provide a JOG venue in the future).</p> <p>- Permissions – We have received a set back with an exclusion zone being applied to the Croydon Hill map. Andrew is negotiating and Steve has also emailed to open up discussions. We will make a decision by Friday evening. Waiting on NT re Broomfield. Parking doesn't appear to be an issue. Wellington School is sorted.</p>	<p>Steve</p> <p>Andrew</p>
5	<p>Marketing and Communications</p> <p>Ray will liaise with Alasdair about the setting up of a QO Mailelite licence. Steve attended the BOF development webinars and reported that competitors reported that like to receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - final details by email; and a - thank you for attending. <p>This made for a more positive experience.</p> <p>We will look at setting up Racesignup to send our final details or at least a link to the website final details and a letter after the event thanking them for their attendance, a link to the results and a lead into the next event and entry link. Karen will contact Claire about setting up the standard email responses for all entries.</p>	

	On consideration of feedback from JOG parents on the effectiveness and useability of our website (particularly for juniors) a proposal on possible alternatives will be tabled at a future meeting.	
6	<p>People</p> <p>Membership. Miffy prepared a membership report. We have 90 members at present – this is down 10% on last year and the membership is reducing year on year.</p> <p>Volunteers & Helpers – Unfortunately, the IT package that Ray put so much work into has not proved to be up to the task. Ray, in testing the package, has found that it was awkward, there are bugs and it is generally not user friendly. Ray still wants to develop a community of volunteers to make the roles clearer and help with getting more volunteers.</p> <p>Club Captain –CSC entries. Nothing to report at present. Entries have been submitted.</p> <p>Training – QO support for members enrolling on BOF e-learning courses. BOF are offering e-learning for organisers for level C & D events. They are charging £10. We agreed to publicise this training and offer to pay for any members that will wish to attend.</p> <p>We need to encourage people to attend the e-learning and then offer follow up sessions. We need more controllers. Richard will sort out training for controllers.</p> <p>Schools Liaison</p> <p>We're in liaison with 2 schools, St Andrew's Church school Taunton and St Mary's School Bridgewater. St Andrew's – Sue and I are doing a whole day session for a class (34) of year 3 (7- 8 years) on Longrun meadow on March 4th . {Agreed QO would provide/print maps}</p> <p>St Mary's -Sue and I are visiting for a chat in early March (year 6, 10 to 11 years). They have engaged with a professional mapping/orienteering company and are having a map of their school grounds.</p> <p>Welfare Officer – Richard has informed BOF and has not received a reply.</p>	<p><i>Miffy</i></p> <p><i>Ray</i></p> <p><i>Pete</i></p>
7	<p>Equipment</p> <p>Still need a person to oversee equipment that lives close to Taunton</p> <p>Jim asked about the club buying more gripples. We are borrowing from Devon, so there is no need to purchase at this time.</p>	

8	<p>Events and Activities</p> <p>Past events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JOGs - Last term we completed 5 JOGs (124 participants) and 2 informal activities [new] (11 participants). This term we've completed 2 JOGs (60 participants) and 2 informal activities (14 participants). - QOFLs – Willmotts Pool and Quantock North. Both events went well. There was a really good turnout for the Quantock North event on Saturday. Does this suggest that Saturdays might suit more people or they can still another event on the Sunday. Letter received from National Trust, unhappy that the toilet was still there on the Monday. We have received an official complaint against a couple of the competitors and this is following due process. The organiser is the initial adjudicator. - Street Series – Street – 8 attendees on the long course and 12 on the short. <p>Plans for future events: See attached fixtures report from Richard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSC – Croydon Hill 23rd Feb - JOG series – Upcoming 3 events and 1 informal (Kings College, Wellington, Broomfield, Maidenbrook). {Agreed QO pay for Broomfield Village Hall – social and presentations circa £45} - We're formulating our aims for the 2025-26 season. The two main aspects are (i) Events and informal activities (12 events + informal activities) (ii) Growing a JOG volunteer community. - QOFLs – see fixtures report prepared by Richard. Provision of junior courses at QOFLS (email from Andy). It was agreed that in some circumstances we would remove the provision of a white course – for example, if the area did not lend itself to easy planning or if it restricted the planner. We would still offer a yellow. Committee are happy with 4 QOFLS (1 as the SWOL event) and 1 in collusion with Devon. We will try a mix of Saturdays and Sundays. - Street events - Spunch events for this summer - Urban – Bridgwater event. - Ramscombe POC is ready. Just waiting on the board for the office wall – still in the design stage. Hoping to run a soft launch. We will need to decide if we are going to use the area for a come and try it event in the late summer. There is an agreement that the parking charges will be waived for such an event. We need to decide what we want out of it. - Committee happy to look at offering to host the Southern Champs 2027 perhaps use Ramscombe and Great Wood. <p>SIAC enabled controls do not record contactless punches, which means we do not have the ability to track a missing competitor.</p>	
	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>Judy's email with regards the charging for a lost dibber. The dibber was found and person has been re-imbursed accordingly.</p>	