



Quantock Orienteers

Minutes for QO Committee Meeting

19.00 Tuesday 8th April at Staplegrove Village Hall, Taunton

1	Start (1900) In attendance: Karen, Pete, Miffy, Steve, Richard, Ray, Sheila, Ollie and Andrew Minutes from previous meeting - Agreed	
2	Matters Arising – No response from Claire with regards standard emails from Racesignup. Karen to try again and email Claire.	
3	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finance report – including summary of CSC finances – see attached report from Steve. Slight loss on the CSC – no charges as yet from FE. Bridgwater urban – net £1000 – no invoice as yet from Robert Blake College - JOG summary – See attached report. - Need to look at entry fees going forward 	<i>Steve</i>
4.	Places <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping – next mapping committee (Jim Mallinson, Jim Nichols, Andy Rimes, Bill Vigar, Brian Pearson, Chris Phillip and Steve Robertson) meeting on Monday 14th April. Map updating is on-going. Croydon Hill – there are still a couple of areas still to map. Request received from Rosie, re Selworthy Hill / Holnicot Estate - Andy Rimes has mapped Selworthy Hill and has contacted National Trust to possibly use it for an event. Steve has had discussions with Owen Jones (FE) – there will be major felling in Great Wood in 2027, Cockercombe and the Slades in 2026. Ray and Sheila have asked for assistance to update the map of David Harrisons wood at Combe Florey. They want to use it for a JOG mid July and would appreciate some mapping input. - Permissions – Need locations for JOGs and QOFLs to be agreed upon and then Andrew will have something to work with and submit. FE Meeting on the 8th of May. 	<i>Steve</i> <i>Andrew</i>
5	Marketing and Communications Mailerite – Alasdair has been approached again with regards getting an additional licence or group licence in order to merge mailshot lists. Alasdair has agreed to sort the licence. We still do not have a multi-user licence nor have lists been merged. Richard will contact Alasdair again. BOK and Devon do the marketing via newsletters so well. Andrew agreed to approach BOK to ask how they manage the marketing of their events so well – perhaps set up a virtual meeting to get assistance. JOG closed community – no progress as yet – not abandoned and it is still an on-going aspiration.	

5	<p>People</p> <p>Membership – chased all that have not renewed and believe that those that are going to renew, have done so. We have lost a few.</p> <p>Volunteers & Helpers – with 12 events over a year, can we get enough to assist. Ray sent an email request to get potentials – 68 no response, 33 responded with 10 declining to assist.</p> <p>Encourage helpers to come forward with incentives. 50% discount for all helpers. 100% discount given on CSC and this cost about £340. Free entry for next event for organisers/planners and controllers.</p> <p>Club Captain –CSC entries. Karen sent out a poll for CSC final – 11 positive responses with 6 prepared to drive. Pete to find out what number of entries we require.</p> <p>Training – First Aid Course? A number of QO did their first aid course three years ago and the expiry is nearly upon us. Suggest that we offer a first aid course. Karen to approach Helen Tayler of Nuco Training to see if she would be willing to carry out the training. Look at current list of first aiders on website to get possible attendees. Open up to all clubs.</p> <p>Welfare Officer – Richard is going to put out an appeal to members with the posts that need filling. (Communication / welfare and equipment). Sheila has agreed to be safeguarding representative for JOG.</p>	<p><i>Miffy</i></p> <p><i>Ray</i></p> <p><i>Pete</i></p>
6	<p>Equipment</p> <p>Still need a person to oversee equipment that lives close to Taunton. The Committee have agreed to meet on the 31st of May to have a look at equipment.</p> <p>Consideration for the club to purchase a SumUp payment device for taking on the day payments. This is a card reader which has Mobile and Wifi connectivity and costs just under £100 with no further cost other than 1.69% transaction fee. This would replace the current iPhone+Card reader combination, both of which are hard to keep charged and not straightforward to use. Steve has suggested that we try Izettle touch app before going with the above option. He has tested the Izettle and thinks it is a good fit.</p>	
7.	<p>Events and Activities</p> <p>Past events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JOGs - Kings College, Wellington School and Broomfield – See attached report from Ray. - Croydon Hill 23rd Feb CSC/National event. We had an after event debrief to run over what went well, what didn't go as planned and what we have learnt from the event. - Street Series – Creech St Michael and Norton Fitzwarren – all very successful with no issues - Urban – Bridgwater 23rd March – SI issue as a result of a firmware update but generally a successful event. 	

7.	<p>Plans for future events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Southern Champs – January 24th 2027 – venue – Ramscombe / Great Wood / Great Bear - planner Phil Sorrell with support from Brian Pearson? Steve will update the map and Karen agreed to be the organiser. (12 months embargo on area). Perhaps make a weekend of events. However, QO is not able to organise/host two events.. Richard has asked Devon / Bristol if they would be up for offering an event on the Saturday. - JOG series – see attached report from Ray - QOFLs – See list of proposed venues below. We still need officials for the events – Planner / Organiser / Controller. Karen willing to be organiser for one QOFL – Staple Hill. Officials for events get a QO of their choosing FOC. - SWOL event 28th September - Urban / Street – Jim Mallinson has suggested that he would be willing to do an urban event in Burnham - Spunch events for this summer. Hazel to market / promote the Spunch events. - Ramscombe CATI August/September 2025 Content for the board has been done. Web page – instructions are being worked on. - JK 2028 – this will be in the SW 2028. It was suggested that we could offer the Burnham Urban as part of this. <p>Cancelling an event due to bad weather – see Miffy's email and BOF guidance. We discussed the preparation of a cancellation policy. Richard will draft something and distribute to the committee for our input.</p>	
	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>SIAC Punching – safety issues. It was agreed that we would continue to offer SIAC punching on events. It was also agreed that we would put the disclaimer in the final details to ensure that all are aware of the safety issues posed by non punching.</p>	

Proposed locations, based on recent QOFL use:

- Blackborough - FE owned, last used Oct 23
- Buckland Wood - FE owned, last used Jan 22, on-site parking limited
- Culmstock - part FE owned, Culm Davy last used Oct 19, need bussing
- Ham Hill - council owned, used for 2x2 relay Jun 24, last used for QOFL Apr 22
- Ramscombe - FE owned, last used Feb 22 for CSC
- Staple Hill - FE owned, last used Apr 18, on-site parking limited

Email from Miffy with regards the decision on when to cancel an event.

I was concerned recently with the decision to continue with the CSC at Croydon Hill when winds were forecast at over 50mph and there was a yellow/amber weather warning in place. I don't want to rake over that decision, but I do wonder whether we should have some guidance for future events about whether they should proceed or be cancelled? Guidance would also help organisers justify a decision and maybe deflect any criticism from the event team.

I haven't found anything terribly helpful on the BOF website other than the 2014 BO Event Official's Handbook which includes the following:

- Think through the circumstances that might cause an event to be postponed/cancelled before the actual moment arises for real
- Have a team approach to the decision - Organiser, Safety Officer, Controller, Planner, First Aid team
- Make a decision you will be happy to live with afterwards - and may have to defend in a court of law

- Consider the event officials / volunteers and the range of competitors
- Consider the weather conditions to come during the course of the event
- Plan for communicating any decisions on postponement/cancellation and get required details on online entries