



TVOC Club meeting: Minutes

Held at 8pm on Tuesday 19th September 2017 at The Merry Bells, Wheatley

Present: Neville Baker (Chair), John Dalton (Minutes), Martin Ricketts (Treasurer), Yvonne Hodson, Bob Beresford, Jon Wheatcroft, Chris Poole, Nat Skidmore

Apologies for absence: Carol Edwards, John Farren, Robin Bishop

1. Matters Arising from previous Club Meeting

a) TVOC equipment insurance arrangements

Final submission to be made.

b) Planners Checklist

Mark definitely plans to do this in due course

c) Documentation of information for Planners and others

Alun Jones reported that the new structure is now in place in Dropbox. Nat confirmed that the structure seems to suit the needs of all series coordinators. Some people have started to populate this new structure. Alun aims to get each organiser to produce or update the area description as events are held. The meeting felt it would be very useful to try and get all TVOC areas documented in this new structure. Neville offered to add the key information he has about areas used in the past.

d) Timing Systems

Report back from the Timing Systems Working Group

Robin Bishop reported that team is continuing to review the need and the current technologies. The general feeling is that there are still technical issues with both contactless systems that are available. The current recommendation of the group is that TVOC still do not rush into a hasty decision. Instead, the club should continue as-is for now whilst the technology continues to shake down and further research is conducted. The team continue in their efforts to liaise with other SCOA clubs, and will make sure that this topic is raised at the SCOA meeting on 21SEP17.

Nat Skidmore had some comments and ideas he would like to share with the group. These were around:

- Contacting non-SCOA clubs using new technologies to get their feedback
- Financial modelling from a TVOC member's perspective (costs of two systems etc)

ACTION: Nat to email his comments and ideas directly to the four members of the group.

e) 2017 AGM

The following date and details is now **CONFIRMED**:

- Saturday 18th November (after the Kingswood Saturday Series event)
- Same location and format as 2016:
 - Brill Village Hall
 - The TVOC AGM will start at **6:00 pm**, followed by the TVOC Annual Dinner and Prize Giving at 7:00 pm.
 - Same caterer

The speaker will be Robin Bishop, talking about his Radio-O experiences.

Thanks to Sue Jones and John Spence for making the necessary arrangements.

ACTION: John Dalton to ask Sue if she can confirm a cost. The club does not propose to subsidise the dinner other than for juniors.

f) Identification of a new TVOC Chair as a result of Carol Edwards' move away from the area
Carol Edwards has recently moved out of the area, and has relocated in the Lake District. As a result, TVOC do need a new Chair and a new Membership Secretary.

Two volunteers have offered to take over as Membership Secretary. This post is not a formally-elected role.

ACTION: Neville offered to contact both volunteers to enable identification of a preferred option.



A further, constructive, discussion was had to identify a Chair.

2. Recent Club Successes

Fiona Bunn was selected to represent the U20 Junior England team for a Mountain Running Home Countries International (incorporated into the British and Irish Junior Mountain Running Championships) on 16 September 2017 in Peebles, Scotland. See: <https://www.englandathletics.org/england-athletics-news/team-announced-for-junior-mountain-running>

Fiona came second.

Both David and Fiona Bunn have been reported on the British Orienteering web site for squad selections.

Robin Bishop represented **Great Britain** at the recent Radio-O event in Lithuania. Find out more details from him as Speaker at the TVOC AGM on the 18th November.

3. 2018 TVOC Club Membership Fees

Required to be confirmed before 24OCT17 deadline of Annual Submission to British Orienteering
2017 TVOC fees are:

SENIOR	£8.00
JUNIOR	£0.00 (Free of Charge)
*FAMILY	£8.00

*Only applicable if the club offers a family membership category (which TVOC does). British Orienteering does not offer family membership.

It was **AGREED** that the Club Membership fees will remain unchanged.

ACTIONS:

- John Dalton to submit the club's Annual Return to British Orienteering by the deadline of 24OCT17
- John Dalton and Martin Ricketts to coordinate payment of TVOC's British Orienteering membership fee

4. Request for Equipment Purchases (Alun Jones)

Laptop. We need to replace old Microsoft XP laptop with a long-running failed keyboard, needed for Level C events and above. Estimated cost: £250. Alun will try to find a refurbished machine at under £200.

This was **AGREED**

Spike for TVOC feather flag. This is needed to replace one that has gone missing. Jon Wheatcroft has confirmed the spike we need. Cost: £15 plus £10 postage

This was **AGREED**

5. Club Development Committee (Chair: Robin Bishop)

ACTION: John Dalton to ask Ian Buxton to modify the TVOiCe Contacts table as follows: **ACTION COMPLETE**

The Development Committee has not met again

6. Past events

Abingdon Urban event, 28AUG17

Alun Jones reported that the event went very well, despite Luke having some issues in the week before the event about permissions from residents in some private estates. He also had some 'interesting' texts during the event.

We did have a few problems with some residents.



It was reported that we had serious problems getting enough helpers. Some of our coaches were tied up on road crossings which meant they were unavailable for coaching newcomers. The Start was under-manned. Some road crossings could have been made safer (for juniors) with more help. There wasn't enough help for newcomers.

It seems that the White Rose, and clashes with other family commitments resulted in this shortage of help.

It was suggested that, in future, we avoid Bank Holiday Monday events for these reasons.

Having said that, we had **369** entries, and **345 starters**, which was very good. The courses were excellent. Overall a very good event indeed.

A donation of £100 will be paid to the charity of Abingdon Town Council's choice.

The club had previously said that it would donate the event surplus to SCJS. Allowing for 'hire charges' for TVOC's kit (tents, computers, printers, cards, controls) which amounts to £450-odd, the surplus would be about £800. It was proposed at the meeting that we do donate £800. This sounds a sensible figure to Alun, thereby also giving TVOC something for the time, effort and kit usage involved with the event.

It was **AGREED** that the surplus of £800 for this event would be paid to the **SCOA Junior Squad**.

ACTION: Martin Ricketts to handle the transfer

7. Future Events: see <http://tinyurl.com/TVOC-plans>

NOTE: The meeting should now be reviewing newly appointed Planners and Controllers for Level C events. (Level B events are reviewed by SCOA).

SEE APPENDIX FOR FULL DETAILS OF ALL EVENTS CURRENTLY PLANNED

8. Saturday Series (Nat Skidmore)

Nat commented about the success of the Cutteslowe Saturday Series event on the 14th September. John confirmed we had 68 Oxfordshire Cubs attending. The Cubs leaders were delighted with the event and thanked us profusely on the day. Both Nat and John would like to thank Ben Green as Planner/Organiser.

Oxfordshire Cubs are keen to work with us to do something in 2018, perhaps before the summer. They would like to seek permission themselves as follows:

- At Youlbury
 - They will obtain permission
- TVOC Saturday Series to run in parallel
- To involve Scouts as well as Cubs
- NOTE: Youlbury will need to be re-mapped

Nat provided a comprehensive annual summary of the Saturday Series year, June-June (to be circulated later). Key points:

- Participation up 25% over previous year
- Average attendance now 140
- We have fewer events with low turnout
- Christmas Common attracted 188 runs. Brill attracted 178.
- The Oxford Parks publicity (and all publicity) from Mike Shires was excellent
- We are only giving a discount of a further £2 (cost of £2) for helpers to run
- The series in total has made a surplus of over £2,000

Nat is working towards sorting out 2018' H1 list of events, dates and planners. This will include:

- Wendover
- Shotover
- Branenham (with OUOC event)

John will act as TVOC Organiser for this Saturday Series event, and will continue to liaise with OUOC. Scott Collier will plan Saturday Series courses.



- Youlbury (if possible)

Alun Jones suggested that we might want to put an event on Saturday 30 December - people will be bored being at home, and will be glad of some excuse for getting outside.

9. Summer Series 2018 (Chris Poole)

Chris has been taking soundings about formats for the 2018 Summer series. This feedback has resulted in the following decisions about the 2018 series:

- Retain the league element and publish results
- Ensure a place (if not a time) is recorded for each participant.
- The Summer Series Org (Chris) allocates points for a 2018 league.

A discussion was had about Summer Series fees. It was **AGREED** that, in future, all M/W21 and above would pay the full £3 fee in future. Juniors to continue to pay £1.

It was **AGREED** that Planners can choose the format of their event.

Yvonne wondered whether a handicap system could operate on the B course to remove the effect that people "running down a course" have on the results. Chris said he would consider.

10. Oxford Street Series (Robin Bishop)

There is an event this week.

11. Other Mapping Topics

There are indications that TVOC is relying too much on the mapping services of too few people, meaning that the mapping load is falling on the shoulders of too few people.

TVOC is looking at exploring other options for mapping outside the club in case this becomes necessary.

12. Officers Reports

a) Chairman:

None

b) Treasurer:

Martin is finalising the year's accounts prior to the AGM. Some income and some costs are still to be finalised

c) Secretary:

None

d) Captain:

The Captain has confirmed a date and event for the TVOC Club Championships.

The BADO event at Pamber Forest and Silchester Common, near Aldermaston, on Sunday 29 October. See <http://www.bado.org.uk/20171029flier.pdf> for advance details. Entries via Fabian4 will open on 1 August. If you want to be eligible for the club champs, please enter the appropriate course for your age class as listed below (running up is allowed, of course).

Super Junior	M12- Orange	W12- Orange
Junior	M14- Light Green	W14- Light Green
Intermediate	M16-18 Blue	W16-18 Green
Senior Open	Brown	Women's Open Blue
Veteran	M45+ Blue	W45+ Green
Super-Vet	M60+ Green	W60+ Short Green
Ultra-Vet	M70+ Green	W70+ Short Green
Hyper-Vet	M80+ Short Green	W80+ Short Green



e) Membership Secretary:

13. Any Other Business

a) Battery failing on EMIT control unit #115

Nat reminded the meeting that, in a previous meeting, it was proposed that replacement EMIT control units do NOT be purchased to replace ones with failing batteries. Instead, TVOC should simply remove the failed controls (and numbers) from use.

b) Club Polo Shirts (Jon Wheatcroft)

Jon suggested that we should consider making club polo shirts, and urban running tops available to members. Jon offered to explore this for the next meeting, and will also seek to determine if any level of club subsidy would be available (noting that the polo shirts would be primarily to identify helpers at summer events). Jon will happily progress this if agreed.

Date of next meeting:

Confirmed as 8pm on Tuesday 21st November 2017 at The Merry Bells, Wheatley.



APPENDIX: Future Events

2017

a) British Middle Distance Championship (Wendover, Sunday 1st October 2017)
Organiser: Mike Cope (CLARO), Planners: Mark Thompson and Peter Riches, Controller: Hedley Calderbank (HH)

NOTE: This is not a TVOC event. The Organiser is Mike Cope (CLARO).

John Dalton reported that all seemed in good order. He had been at Wendover earlier in the day to help cut the 2 gaps necessary in the fence to the Arena area. The car park field is OK, though some water remains in the ruts inside the gate for the first 20m.

Alun Jones asked the meeting to record big thanks from him for the great response to his requests for helpers. We have ended up with nearly 50, a great response from TVOC. This means we can fully resource, Car Parking, Enquiries, Road Crossing, Download/Results and Control Collection.

Map:

Mark Thompson and Jim Prowting

b) Penn Woods (Saturday 2nd December 2017, Southern Night Championships, Level B)
Organiser: Alun Jones, Planner: Neville Baker, Controller: Mike Pemberton (BKO)

OFFICIALS REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY SCOA

Alun reported that all is progressing OK.

Map:

Bob Beresford

Bob reported that there is rhododendron clearing underway at the moment. He and Gary are trying to keep up with it regarding the map and courses.

c) Penn Woods and Common Wood (Sunday 3rd December 2017, Level C).
Organiser: Alun Jones, Planner: Gary Walford, Controller: David Frampton (HH)

OFFICIALS REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY MEETING

Alun reported that all is progressing OK. HH are using the Sunday event as their club champs

Map:

As above

2018

d) RAF Halton and Wendover tbc. (~~Sunday 21st January~~ **Note: Date Change confirmed to Saturday 20th January** 2018, Level C, part Urban)

Organiser: Dougie Cochrane, Planner: Nat Skidmore, Controller: Carol Edwards (BL).

OFFICIALS REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY TVOC

ACTION: Neville to confirm date change in British Orienteering event schedule

NOTE: Dougie must attend a Safety Course

Dougie is attending a Safety Course courtesy of the Wheatcrofts on Sat 7th October (with 8 people including some from other clubs). **ACTION COMPLETE**

We will need to seek permission from the local authority to use the housing estate.

ACTION: Nat to contact Dougie to ensure he contacts the Parish Council in the first instance.

UPDATE: It appears that the housing is still owned by Barratts. Permission will need to be sought from them.



Nat reported that this will still be (broadly) an Urban event, with 1/3 buildings, 1/3 park/grass, 1/3 in the woods. Wear studs (not spikes, not trainers).

Map:

Martin Ricketts **AGREED** to complete this map.

ACTION: Martin to liaise with Dougie over permission to access the site to re-map.

e) BUCS 2018 Championships (Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th March 2018)

Organised by OUOC

Support requested from TVOC

Saturday Series / BUCS Individual: Bradenham
Organiser: Jamie Parkinson? / John Dalton (TVOC)
Planner: Scott Collier
Controller: Helen Marsden

Sunday BUCS Relay: Shotover
Organiser: Jamie Parkinson?
Planner: Ed Nicholas
Controller: Roger Thetford

The NT have now granted permission to use Bradenham.

Maps:

Bradenham mapper understood to be Ian Webb via OUOC

Shotover mapper understood to be Ian Webb via OUOC

f) Great Hampden (Sunday 15th April 2018, Chiltern Challenge, Level B

Organiser: John Dalton. Planner: Robin Bishop. Controller: Mike Edwards, RAFO.

Robin **CONFIRMS** that he can produce a Black course for this event, though it may be short but steep!

John confirmed that we are using the field at the top of Kop Hill for parking, courtesy of the farmer for a fee of £2 per car to go to the local Air Ambulance Service.

Toilets are booked. A draft flyer has been produced. John has asked the Webmaster to log the event in the 2018 Events calendar.

ACTION: Neville update British Orienteering's list with the new car park location.

Map:

Mark Thompson has agreed to map

g) Coombe Hill tbc. (**Provisionally May 21st 2018** (tbc by Neville via Richard Sharp), Level C)

Organiser: tbc. Planner: Chris Poole. Controller: Probably Mike Bennett, HH. **THESE WERE APPROVED BY TVOC**

Organiser still needed.

ACTION: Neville confirm date via Richard Sharp

Map:

Martin Ricketts has offered to update the map. Robin Bishop has done some recent updates to the map.

ACTION: Martin to check with Robin that Robin does not want to do the remap.

h) **Thame Urban** (~~Monday August 31st~~ **Provisionally Sunday 2nd or 9th September 2018** (tbc by Neville via Richard Sharp) 2018 Level C)

NOTE LOCATION CHANGE. NOTE PROVISIONAL DATE CHANGE

Organiser: tbc. Planner: Ben Green, Controller: Charles Bromley Gardner. **THESE WERE APPROVED BY TVOC**



Still needs an Organiser

Given the problems we had getting enough help for Abingdon on Bank holiday Monday this year, and the clash with the Towersey festival in Thame, the meeting proposed a change to Sunday 6th September 2018.

ACTION: Neville confirm date via Richard Sharp

Map:

Mike Shires has offered to produce the map, and has already started preparatory work

i) Shotover (**Sunday 2nd or 9th December 2018 tbc**, Level C)

Organiser: tbc. Planner: tbc. Controller: tbc.

A date needs finalising for this event

ACTION CARRIED OVER: Neville to propose a date in association with SCOA Fixtures Secretary

Still needs Organiser, Planner and Controller

ACTION: Neville to confirm date via Richard Sharp

Map:

May need updating, depending on OUOC's efforts, and further Oxford City Council work

2019

ACTION CARRIED OVER: Neville to think in more detail about a full programme of 2019 events.

j) Chiltern Challenge, **Downley and Naphill (provisional)**, (Sunday 17th February 2019, Level B)

Organiser: tbc. Planner: **Neville Baker**. Controller: tbc.

Neville commented that It's a nice area, and under-used. He planned a CC there some years ago and might be persuaded to do so again.

Landowners and other parties for permission are thought by John Dalton to include:

- NT via Matt Shrimpton (for Bradenham bit E of the road)
- West Wycombe Estate for Naphill
- West Wycombe Estate for Downley Common
- Downley Parish Council for Downley Common
- Downley Common Preservation Society or Downley Common
- Colin Emery for Oak Wood
- NT via Hughenden if we want to use any of Hughenden
- Wycombe District Council for Hughenden Park (though probably not needed)
- Andrew **Stubbings** for car parking at Bradenham

Car parking proposed to be at Bradenham

ACTION: In due course, John Dalton offered to try and obtain the necessary landowner permissions

Map:

Would need significant update and should be done FEB18.

k) RAL (April 19th 2019, JK Sprint)

Use of RAL as a JK venue is still very uncertain. Funding and timescales are still uncertain about future development at the site.

l) JK Relay (April 22nd 2019)

Nettlebed is currently the preferred location by the Planner, Steve Long.



Neville and Steve have explored car parking options

John Dalton has met Heather Giles and a member of the estate owners' family. He has listened and understood a range of concerns from the owners. However, they are warmly disposed to orienteering given our track record compared to other users (and abusers) of the estate. John has formally written to the estate, explaining how their major concerns will be handled. However, the estate may require right of veto to the car parking field if the weather is, in their opinion, too wet. **A contingency plan for such an eventuality will be required.**

Never-the-less, signs are promising from the estate. John to wait for formal feedback.

Wormsley may be a fall-back option

Question from Alun Jones:

Should I now formally contact the Wormsley Estate, thank them for their help, and say we will not be pursuing things further, unfortunately?

Alun Jones feels a need to say something to Wormsley, even if only that we are still assessing options.

ANSWER: Keep them warm. Do not pull out yet!

m) Bicester Urban (**date TBC, but propose mid-late June**, Urban, Level C)

Organiser: tbc. Planner: tbc. Controller: tbc.

ACTION: Neville to confirm a date via Richard Sharp

Map:

Carol Edwards has contacted professional mapper, Mike Hampton (OD). He seems happy to become involved in making the map.

It was **AGREED** to pursue mapping through Mike Hampton.

n) Wendover (October/November, Level C)

Organiser: tbc. Planner: tbc. Controller: tbc.

Neville agree that we should definitely use Wendover for a Level C/SCOL in October/November. Maybe we can arrange to park in the enlarged FC car-parks instead of the muddy field at a quiet time of year? John Dalton is not sure if that would be welcomed by the FC as they are known to use their own reserve car parking on regular occasions.

ACTION: Neville to discuss likelihood of possible FC car parking with Mark Thompson

Map:

2020

o) Hambleden (British Nights, Saturday 22nd February 2020, Level A).

Organiser: tbc, Planner: tbc, Controller tbc

Alun Jones reported that SCOA have asked that TVOC organise the British Nights, to be followed by a Chiltern Challenge (Level B).

John reported that Hambleden have given provisional permission for this event

Map:

p) Hambleden (Chiltern Challenge, Sunday 23rd February 2020, Level B).

Organiser: tbc, Planner: tbc, Controller tbc

John reported that Hambleden have given provisional permission for this event

Map:

A significant debate was had at the March meeting about the ability of TVOC to both map and organise these two events given the constraints of Hambleden being a shooting estate.



Critical is the difficulty of obtaining sufficient access to the woods for mapping before the event. As a Night Event, the event has to be held sufficiently early to be dark. However, the woods are not available for easy mapper (and Planner/Controller) access until 1st February.

These problems could be alleviated somewhat by:

- Courses planned 12 months in advance
- Negotiation with the Hambleden Estate to allow some mapper and Planner access during the shooting season

This “double header” event will also put other strains on TVOC organisation. Controls will be required to be put out and collected for two events. Helpers will be needed on both the Saturday and the Sunday of one weekend.

These problems could be alleviated somewhat by ensuring that, as far as possible, both events use the same control sites.

Alternative approaches for these events might be:

- Separate the events out onto separate weekends
- Move the Night Event from Hambleden to an area with better access

It was **AGREED** to postpone any final decision on this matter until after the “double header” events at Penn later in 2017.