



TVOC Club meeting: FINAL Minutes

Held at 8pm on Tuesday 21st November 2017 at The Merry Bells, Wheatley

Present: Neville Baker (Chair), John Dalton (Minutes), Yvonne Hodson, Bob Beresford, John Farren, Robin Bishop, Chris Poole

Apologies for absence: Andrew Chalmers, Jon Wheatcroft and Glynis, Martin Ricketts (Treasurer), Nat Skidmore

1. Matters Arising from previous Club Meeting

a) TVOC equipment insurance arrangements

Final submission to be confirmed as having been made.

b) Planners Checklist

Confirmed as underway by Mark Thompson

c) Documentation of information for Planners and others

Continuing. Neville Baker **AGREED** to search his archives for relevant information to be provided. This was considered to be information from the most recent event held on the area (whenever that was).

d) Timing Systems: Report back from the Timing Systems Working Group

From Robin Bishop on behalf of the Timing Group:

The Timing Group does not feel it will be possible to make a rapid decision on the choice of new, touch-free timing equipment for TVOC.

There are outstanding technical questions awaiting feedback from both EMIT and SI regarding their touch-free timing systems.

Consultations with SCOA and other SCOA clubs have taken place by members of the Timing Group. The following has been established:

- TVOC and BKO: both actively considering new touch-free timing systems
- SOC and BAOC have decided to re-battery all their existing EMIT controls for now
- Also, EMIT users, OD, have decided to maintain a minimum viable set of EMIT kit until they make a longer-term decision about touch-free kit. They are buying replacement controls, if necessary, to retain a working set for the club.

The feeling of the Timing Group is that TVOC also needs to confidently maintain a minimum set of EMIT controls for now. We can't place ourselves at risk of failures at important events.

Proposal from Alun Jones (sent by Alun to all members of TVOC electronically before this meeting)

I am sending a proposal below to John Dalton, Club Secretary, for discussion (and hopefully a decision) at the TVOC Club Meeting on Tuesday.

I want all members to have an opportunity to give their views on the proposal, hence this email to you all. I do apologise for the very short notice, but this issue only really surfaced on Saturday, and the possible solution only last evening.

Our EMIT controls are now 14 years old. They have given sterling service, but the batteries are now very old. We have had four failures at events in September and October. (Failure in this context is warning of impending battery failure – we retire the control after the event. No control has yet totally failed at an event.) However we had five more battery warnings at our event on Saturday – three controls, plus a Start control and a Finish. I have a very real fear that the batteries of many of our controls are now at the end of their life, and we are about to see mass failures.

I know that the club is considering alternative timing equipment for the future. We decided earlier in the year not to replace any controls which failed; we would get little useful life out of them if we choose a new system for the future. However I have heard that there is unlikely to be a rapid decision about new systems. In the meantime, we need to be able to keep our events running with reliable timing equipment, and reduce any impact on our Planners.

I have just been emailing and talking to Allan Farrington at EMIT UK. He tells me:

“You are in the same boat as SOC and me with my hire set. Most of mine were pre-2006 so I sent them all off to Finland and had the batteries changed so they will do me another 10 years. You cannot tell the units have been opened.



"SOC did the same before the Nov Classic as theirs were mainly purchased around 2003/4 and they were getting the odd battery failure. So we replaced the batteries in all their oldest controls, 60 of them. It is in my interest for you to do the same. You can have them done at £34 each, which is less than half price of a new control. Postage was £25 each way. It took 3 weeks to get theirs done, but say 4 weeks to be safe. I can lend you controls at no cost in the interim".

This looks to me such a sensible way forward. I therefore would like to make the following proposal to the meeting on Tuesday. On the basis that a decision regarding replacement punching systems is likely to be **at least 12+ months away**, I propose to the club that:

- We now re-battery our controls numbered 111 to 140, plus 152, plus two Starts and two Finishes. That's 35 controls @ £34 each, so cost £1,190, plus £50 postage.
I have chosen these numbers on the basis that 101 to 110 might have had lighter use (more likely to be on White and Yellow courses), and 141+ probably gets used less regularly (although 152 has failed).
- In a few months time, if we have seen more failures in the remaining units, we will need to decide whether to get the rest done as well - depending on where we are on decision on replacement punching systems.

Ideally I would like this decision made on Tuesday. We could then get the kit sent to Finland immediately after the Chilterns Night & Day event. If the meeting decides it can't decide on Tuesday, I would want to bring it back to be considered at the meeting in January.

This is an investment of over £1,000. The club can well afford it. But we may only get a year or so's value from this expenditure. Members may well have views on whether to go ahead.

So members, if you can attend the meeting tomorrow, please express those views at the meeting. If not, please email your views to John so he can give them at the meeting.

John Dalton reported the feedback he had from the following:

Greg Birdseye, Jon Wheatcroft, Nat Skidmore, Mark Thompson, Peter Riches, Brian Watkins, Alison Smith and Martin Ricketts.

The majority of respondents were in support of Alun's proposal. In addition, some respondents proposed that all older EMIT controls be re-battered now.

The following was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**: That Alun Jones' proposal (as above) be **ACCEPTED**.

A following amendment was then **PROPOSED** by John Farren:

That **all** TVOC's older EMIT controls be re-battered immediately.

This amendment was also **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**, pending agreement from the Treasurer (who could not attend the meeting).

ACTIONS:

- John Dalton to share the above decisions with both Alun Jones and the Treasurer
- John Dalton to ask Alun Jones to take the necessary action following feedback from the Treasurer.

UPDATE SINCE MEETING: Treasurer Martin Ricketts has now confirmed his support for this amendment. Alun Jones is now putting the necessary actions in place. The approach he is taking will significantly reduce risks of EMIT control failure at the forthcoming Chiltern Night and Day events.

EMIT Cards. Alun Jones also asked the following to be shared with the club FOR INFORMATION:

I think we will start to struggle if and when we have another (say) EMIT 20 cards fail. We have 50 good ones, another 20 of the oldest cards which still seem to be going strong, and another 35 of red and blue ones. The red ones are largely now re-battered, and hopefully we won't have more 'Dougie' issues with the clock going haywire; the blue ones are pretty impossible to re-battery. So 20 failures could occur by the end of the winter.

e) Matters Arising from 2017 AGM

The meeting was delighted that Neville Baker was happy to take over as Chair at the AGM. The meeting was also delighted that Marie-Anne Fischer was happy to take over as Membership Secretary.

Following the election of Neville as Chair at the AGM, no nominations were received for his replacement as Vice Chair.

At the Club Meeting, Chris Poole offered to take over as Vice Chair.



According to the TVOC Constitution, "Any Office falling vacant ... may be filled pending the next AGM by a person appointed by the remaining Officers".

The two Officers present at the meeting, the Chair and Secretary, both supported this appointment.

ACTION: John Dalton will contact Treasurer, Martin Ricketts, to determine if he also supports the appointment of Chris Poole as Vice Chair. John Dalton will take the necessary actions following Martin's feedback.

f) 2018 TVOC Club Membership Fees

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

ACTIONS COMPLETE

g) Request for Equipment Purchases (Alun Jones)

Laptop. This was **AGREED**

Spike for TVOC feather flag. This was **AGREED**

ACTIONS COMPLETE

2. Club Attire (Jon Wheatcroft)

From Jon Wheatcroft:

Polo Shirts

We look smart at events, typically from late autumn to spring, but our corporate image wanes a little in the warmer months. Would members be interested in Royal Blue polo shirts? 100% cotton embroidered "Thames Valley Orienteering Club" at approx. £13 each?

(Various permutations of colour e.g. Royal Blue + white and/or including logo too would increase price up to £25).

As this would be primarily for the club, not for volunteers, I would expect members to pay no more than £5. (i.e. I propose a hefty club subsidy).

Urban Tops

A number of us frequently participate in urban races. Is there any demand for unisex high neck vests over printed (e.g. TVOC urban orienteering) and in (two of the) club colours Royal and White (black doesn't aid visibility!) I would anticipate members paying full price for these.

The feedback from the meeting on these suggestions was as follows:

- There was interest in exploring TVOC Polo Shirts
- There was little interest in exploring Urban vests for the club
- Chris Poole has recent experience of specifying polo shirts for RAFO. He found a supplier who, for a minimum order of 25, would charge between £11 and £13 each
- At this price, the meeting did not feel that the club needed to subsidise polo shirts
- However, there was some sympathy to subsidising polo shirts for juniors (say £5)

ACTION: Chris Poole offered to contact Jon Wheatcroft to discuss this matter further

3. Club Tents (Alun Jones)

Alun Jones shared the below **FOR INFORMATION AND DECISION:**

TVOC currently has six tents, as described below. One of our older tents suffered somewhat at the British Middles. This note sets out some proposals.

Current tents

TVOC has six tents, all Khyam Screenhouses:

1. Two tents are pretty old (maybe 15 years), and made of a plasticky material. They are used by the Registration and Results team, so are typically used 15 times per year. The original tent bags are in poor condition – one has now been replaced; one of the two carrying handle straps on the other one has torn from the bag. We are also short of pegs. See below for description of damage at the Middles.
2. One tent is around 10 years old, made of nylon. Again used by the Registration and Results team. This tent is showing some signs of wear. In addition, one of the poles is bent (I have not bothered to replace it because it still functions OK).



3. Two tents are around 5 years old, made of nylon. One is used by the Enquiries team, the other by the String course. These tents are typically used only 3 or 4 times a year. They are in good condition.
4. One tent is about 3 years old, made of nylon. It was originally purchased to allow four tents to be used for Registration & Results at larger events – one tent for form filling, one for entries, one for EMIT hire and subsequently for download, one for initial download and for problem solving. However I do not think we have ever actually used this 'four tent' configuration, although it would certainly avoid the crush in what is currently the EMIT hire and Download tent. This sixth tent is currently held by Simon Kippin, who uses it from time to time for Junior Squad purposes. It is in good condition.

Damage at the British Middles

We lent 5 tents for the British Middles, the three Registration & Results tents, the Enquiries tent and the one held by Simon Kippin. We will be paid £75 for their loan.

It was quite windy overnight. As a result, one of the two oldest tents suffered in the wind. A tie normally attaches the outer skin of a tent to the foot of each leg; two of these ties were torn from the cover.

My wife, Liz, has now re-sown the ties back onto the cover material. Nevertheless, this may remain an area of weakness

Should we now look to replace this tent?

My view is no. I think the resulting repair will probably stand up to reasonable wear and tear. A new tent retails for £520 (although Khyam are currently holding a sale and selling Screenhouses for £300). I think we can probably squeeze a few years more life out of our two oldest tents.

However, I think it would be sensible to swap this tent for one of those which has limited use – I suggest, it should be swapped with the one currently held by Simon.

Note that Simon is concerned that any damage to the tent be charged to the Junior Squad. This might be appropriate if he has one of our newer tents. However, if he were to have one of the oldest tents, whilst we would expect it to be looked after (and I am sure Simon would do so), I think we should lend it on the basis that if it falls to bits, so be it and we would just want the bits back.

Other issues

I propose to purchase a new tent bag, to replace the one with the broken strap, along with a further supply of tent pegs. Total cost maybe £50.

Alun Jones
14 October 2017

The following were AGREED:

- Alun is authorised to spend £50 for tent spares etc.
- Alun is authorised to buy another tent second hand on Ebay up to a cost of £100 if one comes up.

4. Recent Club Successes

UK Orienteering League Club results.

- We were 4th in the Club League
- We may not have made the top three, but that's still a pretty impressive performance for TVOC, one that I think we should be pretty proud of.
- The winning team is made up of the best 15 individual scores from club members. So well done and thank you to:

John Thompson (M80),
Roger Thetford (M55),
Alison Smith (W50),
Jim Prowting (M70),
Simon Kippin (M45),
Bethany Kippin (W18),

Dave Kingham (M60),
Mikhail Gryaznevich
(M60),
Ben Green (M40),
Inara Gipsle (W65),

Vesela CHOKOEVA
(W40),
Nigel Bunn (M50),
Fiona Bunn (W18),
David Bunn (M16),
Roger Baker (M85)

In addition, the following individual successes should be shared:

- David Bunn was 1st in M16
- John Thompson was 1st in M80
- Roger Baker was 1st in M85
- Inara Gipsle was 2nd in W65

5. Club Development Committee (Chair: Robin Bishop)

The Development Committee has not met again



6. Past events

British Middle Distance Championship, Wendover Woods, 01OCT17

Mike Cope, Event Organiser, has been extremely generous in offering his grateful thanks to TVOC as a club, and to many of its members in committing their extensive support and help to ensure this event was such a great success.

An excellent report (written by Mark Thompson) about the event appears in the very latest CompassSport Magazine.

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)

The next season of events is now nicely booked up

9. Summer Series 2018 (Chris Poole)

Chris has taken on all comments from 2017. The Age Handicap will be re-introduced.

10. Oxford Street Series (Robin Bishop)

The next event is in Jerico next week. Currently, there is no event planned for December, unfortunately.

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.

Mark Thompson repoted that he has passed on the responsibilities of completing and updating the Wendover map to Jim Prowting.

The meeting wanted to record its immense thanks to Mark for the way in which the map of Wendover has been developed over his years being responsible for it.

Mark Thompson will still maintain the responsibility of maintaining the permanent course with the Forestry Commission.

12. Officers Reports

- a) Chairman:
None
- b) Treasurer:
None
- c) Secretary:
None
- d) Captain:
None
- e) Membership Secretary:
None



13. Any Other Business

a) Club Kit (Peter Riches)

Currently, Peter holds a stock of just 6 jackets, 2 junior, 3 ladies and one men's small.

Does the club want Peter to hold a slightly larger stock? He has had to turn active members away, but only 2 of them so far.

Peter suggested that this might be the time to tell the club formally that someone else could take this on please, been a long time and needs a new face.

Could anyone happy to take this responsibility over please contact Peter directly.

ACTION: Neville offered to talk to Peter about the re-ordering process and minimum order etc.

ITEM TO BE CARRIED OVER to next meeting for consultation with the Treasurer.

b) Hill End (Yvonne Hodson)

Yvonne shared that Hill End has now become an accredited Orienteering centre. No mention of TVOC's support appears to be mentioned.

Date of next meeting:

Confirmed as 8pm on Tuesday 16th January 2018 at The Merry Bells, Wheatley.



APPENDIX: Future Events

Additions since previous meeting shown in red

2017

a) Penn Woods (Saturday 2nd December 2017, Southern Night Championships, Level B)
Organiser: Alun Jones, **Planner:** Neville Baker, **Controller:** Mike Pemberton (BKO), **Mapper:** Bob Beresford
OFFICIALS REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY SCOA

FROM ALUN JONES:

All seems to be progressing well. Map and courses are near enough agreed. Organisational side looks OK. We are short of manpower, so I will be trawling the club again for volunteers to help on both days. A good number of our regulars have volunteered for both days, even when they are not running, which is very good of them. BKO are providing some help on the EMIT side at the Night Event.

Can we get any help from the Army if we still need it?

Map:

Maps ready for printing

b) Penn Woods and Common Wood (Sunday 3rd December 2017, Level C).
Organiser: Alun Jones, **Planner:** Gary Walford, **Controller:** David Frampton (HH), **Mapper:** Bob Beresford
OFFICIALS REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY MEETING

Map:

As above

2018

c) RAF Halton and Wendover (**Note: Date Change confirmed to Saturday 20th January 2018,** Level C, part Urban)
Organiser: Dougie Cochran, **Planner:** Nat Skidmore. **Controller:** Carol Edwards (BL) **Mapper:** Martin Ricketts
OFFICIALS REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY TVOC

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

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

FROM ALUN JONES:

Flyer now agreed. Some issues over pricing, trying to square the circle between Saturday Series pricing and level C pricing. Dougie has managed to obtain access to Halton facilities for no charge, which means we can charge less than normal level C, which helps to resolve things.

Map:

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

d) 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
Mapper: Ian Webb via OUOC

Sunday BUCS Relay: Shotover



Organiser: Jamie Parkinson?
Planner: Ed Nicholas
Controller: Roger Thetford
Mapper: Ian Webb via OUOC

Maps:

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

Organiser: John Dalton. **Planner:** Robin Bishop. **Controller:** Mike Edwards, RAFO, **Mapper:** Mark Thompson

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 that just needs entry fees to be included. First Aid support from St John Ambulance has been formally requested.

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

Map:

UPDATE FROM MARK THOMPSON:

I plan to update Great Hampden and Whiteleaf for the event in April 2018. I will update Whiteleaf in December and January and the Estate in February and March. This is an update to some mapping I did last year.

A scale of 1:7,500 is being proposed. No objections have so far been received.

f) Coombe Hill tbc. (**Provisionally May 21st 2018** (tbc by Neville via Richard Sharp), Level C)
EVENT WITHDRAWN FROM CALENDAR

g) Thame Urban (**Confirmed as 9th September 2018**, Level C)

Organiser: **STILL VACANT**. **Planner:** Ben Green, **Controller:** Charles Bromley Gardner, **Mapper:** Mike Shires.

THESE WERE APPROVED BY TVOC

FROM ALUN JONES: Planner and Controller are happy with the date change.

Still needs an Organiser. Can any local member offer to Organise?

ACTION: Neville confirm date via Richard Sharp
ACTION COMPLETE

Map:

Mike Shires has already started preparatory work

h) Shotover (**Sunday 9th December 2018**, Level C)

Organiser: Ali Kempson and Gary Mills, **Planner:** Dave Kingham, **Controller:** Mike Bennett, HH, **Mapper:** tbc following BUCS event

THESE WERE APPROVED BY TVOC IN THE MEETING

A date needs finalising for this event

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

Map:

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

FROM PETER RICHES:



You might also suggest to the club that there will be a lot of people not going to the British Championships, 19/20 May 2018 at Balmoral. This leaves a big gap in the **event diary** that TVOC could fill.

Neville noted that other clubs in the south were also considering putting events on at this time.

ACTION: Neville to review the current event schedule for the south and consider further

2019

i) Chiltern Challenge, **Downley and Naphill (provisional)**, (Sunday 17th February 2019, Level B)
Organiser: tbc. **Planner:** Neville Baker. **Controller:** tbc, **Mapper:** 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.

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

THIS LOCATION IS CONFIRMED AS OUT OF CONSIDERATION.

JK Coordinators have asked if someone from TVOC can actively explore alternative Sprint venues.

ACTION: John Dalton will ask Mike Shires if he would be happy to explore one specific TVOC venue as a JK Sprint location on Good Friday 2019.

k) JK Relay (Easter Monday April 22nd 2019)

Nettlebed

Organiser: Neville Baker, **Planner:** Steve Long

Note that 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.

Permission does now seem likely from the Nettlebed Estate pending formal agreement. John is being invited to a meeting with the Estate in January to discuss an agreement. Unfortunately, Heather (TVOC's long-standing contact at the Estate) has now moved away from the area. We are in contact with her replacement.

ACTIONS:

- John Dalton and Neville Baker to meet with Nettlebed Estate in January to confirm details and obtain formal agreement
- John and Neville to discuss whether, given the sensitivity of the car parking field, car parking should be located elsewhere and busses used. Neville suggested the Marlow International site on the east side of Marlow as one option.

Wormsley may be a fall-back option



Wormsley still being kept warm by Alun Jones

l) Bicester Urban (**Sunday 30th June 2019**, Urban, Level C)

Organiser: tbc. **Planner:** tbc. **Controller:** tbc, **Mapper:** Mike Hampton (OD) tbc.

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.

ACTION: John Dalton to contact Carol Edwards to obtain the details of, and then contact, Mike Hampton

m) Wendover (**Sunday 10th November 2019**, Level C)

Organiser: tbc, **Planner:** tbc, **Controller:** tbc, **Mapper:** tbc.

The meeting felt it unlikely that the FC would be happy TVOC using FC car parking at Wendover.

Map:

The meeting considered that this programme of events (alongside the JK in our region) was sufficient for 2019.

2020

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

Organiser: tbc, **Planner:** tbc, **Controller:** tbc, **Mapper:** 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:

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

Organiser: tbc, **Planner:** tbc, **Controller:** tbc, **Mapper:** 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.