



TVOC Club meeting: Minutes

Held at 8pm on Tuesday 17th January 2017 at The Merry Bells, Wheatley

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

Apologies for absence: John Thompson, Carol Edwards

1. Matters Arising from previous Club Meeting

a) TVOC equipment insurance arrangements

ACTION UNDERWAY: Martin Ricketts to circulate complete kit lists for review.

b) Planners Checklist

Mark definitely plans to do this in due course.

c) Matters arising from SCOA Meeting

- Alun Jones nominated next year's Abingdon Urban event to support the SCOA Junior Squad.

ACTION: Simon Kippin plans to find a parent to act as co-organiser as the squad needs to provide the appropriate manpower in recognition of the donation that TVOC is willing to provide. **ACTION CARRIED OVER**

d) TVOC AGM 03DEC16

Any matters arising: **NONE**

e) Purchase of new equipment

- Kites etc. (Neville Baker)

It was considered that the recent purchase of 25 new kites was insufficient to replace all the tatty old kites that need replacement. It was **AGREED** that TVOC will purchase another 50 kites at approximately £4 per kite. Neville will then discard all old / unusable kites.

- Planned replacement of EMIT kit (Pete Riches).

After discussion, Alun proposed the following:

- That the Treasurer notes the potential need for a major investment at some future date, and earmarks funds for that purpose. **THIS WAS AGREED**
- We continue to replace kit on an ad hoc basis (like-for-like) as it fails. **THIS WAS AGREED**
- To go ahead and replace control 132 now. **THIS WAS AGREED**
- To carefully log equipment as it is replaced. **THIS WAS AGREED**

These points have been NOTED by the Treasurer.

- **PROPOSAL:** purchase of new splits printer (Alun Jones)

Alun would like to buy a third splits printer. It is £156 plus perhaps a bit for carriage.

We currently have two, which we normally use on download. We could manage with one, even for an event the size of the Chiltern Challenge. 500 downloads over a 2 hour period implies one every 15 seconds, which is doable, just. But a second printer gives resilience if for example one download computers gets stuck, or a printer roll runs out, or whatever.

Alun has been experimenting with printing 'tickets' at Registration, for EoD people to take to the Start. That is really needed for a level B event, because there are 12 courses for people to remember what they have entered, and they need to be given a defined start time. Having a third splits printer available for registration to print these tickets would make life easier. The software to print them is all built into Colour and MERCS.

This purchase was **AGREED**.

f) Waddesdon Medals (Yvonne Hodson)

ACTION: Nat is considering how the medals can be used to issue to people who have completed a future series of Saturday Series of events.



g) Future Commitment to Clubmark Accreditation (John Dalton)

This is almost complete, subject to final review. **ACTION:** John to submit for accreditation when complete

h) OUOC and BUCS 2018 Individual and Relay (John Dalton)

Initial plans are well in-hand between TVOC and OUOC for TVOC to provide support to OUOC for these events. Permissions are being sought for use of Bradenham and Shotover. TVOC will run a Saturday Series on the Saturday alongside the BUCS Individual event. TVOC will provide the computing infrastructure, some kit etc. for the Saturday events. OUOC are taking a lead themselves for the Relay.

i) Safety Workshop: Jon Wheatcroft

Jon and Glynis Wheatcroft are running the next Workshop on Saturday 21st January. Attendance will be 15. Fiona will attend, as will several others from HH and two from OUOC.

UPDATE SINCE MEETING: 6 TVOC members (and 8 others) attended the workshop

j) Hill End: John Farren

John reported that he has been asked by Amanda Warwick at Hill end about updating the map, and providing more orienteering infrastructure (such as a Permanent Course) which would help them become a recommended orienteering centre. The map has been updated and will be used for the Saturday Series on 21st January.

2. Recent Club Successes

2016 UK Urban League

TVOC had the following top 6 final placings:

- 1st Young Junior Men 12-, Joel Taylor
- 1st Womens' Super Vet, Carol Edwards
- 2nd Young Junior Men 12-, Nathan Taylor
- 4th Men's Veteran, Roger Thetford
- 6th Women's Ultravet, Yvonne Hodson

2016 UK Orienteering League

TVOC placed 5th in the 2016 UK Orienteering League, out of 115 clubs. The people who contributed to the score are:

- David Bunn (M16)
- Bethany Kippin (W16)
- Fiona Bunn (W18)
- Anne Edwards (W21)
- Tim Must (M45)
- Robin Bishop (M45)
- Simon Kippin (M45)
- Roger Thetford (M50)
- Alison Smith (W50)
- Nigel Bunn (M50)
- Carol Edwards (W55)
- Mikhail Gryaznevich (M60)
- Jim Prowting (M70)
- John Thompson (M80)
- Roger Baker (M80)

3. Club Development

- To review current situation regarding development / sustainability / recruitment / retention / coaching etc. etc.

A question was asked whether more social events might be organised that non-orienteers might be happy to join.

TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING.

4. People who have left TVOC

- Who should remain on the TVOC email discussion group?

TVOC operates two different GoogleGroups email lists. People have to ask to be added to such lists and they are not automatically added. It was noted that a number of very active members of the club are NOT on either of the lists.



It was agreed that we need to review the list of people on each GoogleGroups list.

ACTION: Before the next meeting, John Dalton to obtain a list of all TVOC GoogleGroups, along with a list of who is listed on each.

NOTE (from the TVOC web site):

TVOC has two Google groups emailing lists.

- The TVOC members mailing list is open to TVOC members only and enables all members of TVOC to keep in touch. By subscribing to the list you will receive all messages posted by other members and can send messages to all other subscribed members.
- The second TVOC event mailing list is provided for anybody who wishes to receive reminders of forthcoming TVOC events. You do not have to be a member of TVOC to subscribe to this list. TVOC members may subscribe to both lists.

TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING.

- How can we show our appreciation for people who have contributed hugely to the club and are now stepping back?

It was confirmed that a lot of people have done much for the club over previous years. **TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING.**

5. Past events

- Shotover, Level C, 20NOV16

FROM ALUN:

Seemed to go OK. I don't recall any major issues. Haven't seen any accounts for the event, but I would guess there as a reasonable surplus? There were 268 entries, reasonably good.

- Didcot Urban, Level C, 02JAN17

FROM ALUN:

Went OK. Ian P had to pull out of organising at a late stage, due a family bereavement. I and Richard Sharp filled the void. Overnight weather was cold, so the roads and pavements were icy. I feel the event was borderline from a safety point of view but we got away with no significant injuries. Excellent entries, over 300, and low expenses mean over £1000 surplus.

We did seem to be short of coaching at the Start. We had expected Roger Thetford to be available, but he was required on the road crossing. It was reported that Carol and Roger are considering setting up a new Coaching team. This should enable more consistent resource to help newcomers at the Start.

ADDITIONAL COMMENT: Roger has agreed to establish & lead a coaching team *if somebody can be found to lead the Road Crossing Team.*

It was considered to be better to try and prepare newcomers near to where they are registering. However, there is also clearly a need for **coaching help** at the Start too. Roger Thetford was invaluable in the woods near the Start at the Black Park Saturday Series event.

Martin commented that, despite clear instructions, control descriptions printed on the map for the junior courses were pictorial, rather than text.

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

All events planned are listed below.

2017

a) Waddesdon Half Term Event with National Trust (11-19th February)

Yvonne mentioned the following:

- Organisation is progressing very well
- The National Trust are extremely pleased that we are supporting this activity
- Courses planned: 4 courses around the path network
- Some momentos / prizes given for completion of each course that fit together if all four are completed



- An additional event is being organised for the first Sunday, and the second Saturday and Sunday: a timed Score Event. This will encourage a more competitive element
- Some help still needed, especially on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th. Please let Yvonne know if you can help

b) Nettlebed. (26th February 2017, Level C)

Organiser: Richard Sharp, Planner: Ed Nicholas, Controller: Colin Duckworth (TVOC) approved by SCOA
Planner has reported that all is OK. Planner is attending Safety Workshop 21JAN17.

Map:

Robin Bishop: Mapping proceeding well. Planner has latest version of the map.

c) Hambleden (Sunday 9th April 2017, Chiltern Challenge, Level B, SCOA Champs)

Organiser: Jon and Glynis Wheatcroft, Planners: Mark Thompson and Peter Riches, Controller: Terry Smith, SOC

Organiser reported that all was fine.

FROM PETER RICHES AND MARK THOMPSON:

Second draft courses (armchair planned) submitted to controller. Tagging planned for early February.

It has been agreed that, at this event:

- No dogs in the woods. Well-behaved dogs on a lead in the car park. Please clean up after your dogs.
- No pairs and groups together beyond the Orange course

Map:

FROM MARK THOMPSON AND JOHN FARREN:

Map update planned for February and March.

d) North and East Abingdon (Bank Holiday Monday, 28th August 2017, Urban, Level C) – SCOA Junior squad event

Organiser: Luke McNeil, Planner: Fiona Bunn, Controller: John Orton, NWO

Map:

Martin Ricketts has started creating the map

e) 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).

Neville will check the Car Park condition this week.

FROM PETER RICHES AND MARK THOMPSON:

Second draft courses (armchair planned) submitted to controller. Plan now on using 2 starts. Tagging planned for 1Q.

Map:

FROM MARK THOMPSON AND JIM PROWTING:

Wendover Middles October 2017 progressing well for first draft end January. Mapping will continue. But this will enable replanting of courses on new map.

f) Penn Woods (Saturday 2nd December 2017, Southern Night Championships)

Organiser: Alun Jones, Planner: Neville Baker, Controller: Mike Pemberton (BKO)

Note that all three Penn areas are available. However, to use them all would require road crossings.

Car parking has been secured, and use of the loading bay.

FROM ALUN JONES:

Martin Ricketts has paid the deposit for the village hall hire for Saturday evening.

Map:



Will need updating. Bob Beresford offered. Bob has new LIDAR data which he is reviewing alongside the existing map. New fences (with gates) have appeared that need mapping

g) Penn Woods and Common Wood (Sunday 3rd December 2017, Level C). Possible SCOA Middle Distance Championships tbc.

Organiser: John Dalton, Planner: Gary Walford, Controller: David Frampton (HH)

ACTION: Bob Beresford to see if he can talk to the owner of a field for car parking on the Common Wood side. **ACTION CARRIED OVER**

Map:

As above

2018

h) RAF Halton and Wendover tbc. (Sunday 21st January 2018, Level C, part Urban)

Organiser: tbc. Planner: Nat Skidmore. Controller: tbc.

Map:

ACTION: John Dalton to ask John Farren if he will be able to identify a mapper for this event. Robin Bishop was the most recent mapper for Halton, though he is not thought to be available for this remap as he is CC Planner.

i) BUCS 2018 Championships (Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 February 2018)

Organised by OUOC

Support requested from TVOC

Saturday Series / BUCS Individual: Bradenham

Sunday BUCS Relay: Shotover

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

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

Bussing may be necessary for this level B event. Alun has identified suitable parking identified at the foot of Kop Hill at Princes Risborough School. 20 mins uphill walk to Start, though.

Map:

Mark Thompson has agreed to map

k) Coombe Hill tbc. (May or June 2018, Level C)

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

Map:

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

l) Bicester Urban (Monday August 31st, Level C)

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

Map:

ACTION: John Dalton to ask John Farren if he will be able to identify a mapper for this event.

m) Shotover tbc. (Sunday dd November 2018, Level C)

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

Map:

2019

ACTION: Neville proposed that initially he and Alun start to think in more detail about a full programme of 2019 events.

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

This looks very likely as the venue. Though a lot of building work is currently underway that will need mapping.



Roger Thetford was reported to be in good contact with Sean at RAL.

UPDATE SINCE MEETING: This venue must now not be considered as a certainty. Roger Thetford is pursuing.

o) JK Relay (April 22nd 2019)

Could this be at Nettlebed?

Neville reported that, after inspection, he thinks Nettlebed could be a suitable area to use, subject to car parking availability. Neville has identified three different fields that might suffice for this. This would come from the estate.

ACTION: John Dalton to send Neville details he has for the landowner at Nettlebed.

Could this be at Wormsley?

FROM ALUN JONES:

Neville Baker and I visited Wormsley Estate. Quite similar in terrain to Hambleden. Woods perhaps lacking enough decent features to be ideal, but generally does look a very promising venue. Next step is for Steve Long (planner) to review in detail, probably in February.

Neville reported that the estate seemed very enthusiastic. Arena area and car parking have been identified. Neville agreed that there might be a shortage of features for a good relay event. It is generally rolling hills and slopes.

2020

p) Hambleden (British Nights, Late Feb/Early Mar necessary for any night event).

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:

q) Hambleden (Chiltern Challenge, Late Feb/Early Mar necessary for any night event, 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 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.

7. Saturday Series (Nat Skidmore)

Nat has found that getting commitment from sufficient Planner/Organisers for a 2017 programme has been a bit of a problem. We do have a programme for the first half of 2017 now. February has been excluded deliberately due to other events. There is a gap in April that might be for Christmas Common or Brill. It is noted that the Chiltern Challenge and JK are both in April this year.

Plans will soon be needed for the second half of 2017. Nat is considering the best structure for these events.

Nat has found some compasses at £3.20 each to sell at events for £4.

A discussion was had about road signage.

ACTIONS:

- Nat to discuss signage with Neville, and raid his supply if necessary
- Jon Wheatcroft offered to order new signs if this was necessary, plus any other Saturday Series purchases **such as tape**

UPDATE SINCE MEETING: Tape and signs for Saturday Series now ordered

Nat plans to update the TVOC web site to ensure it caters well for people who know nothing about orienteering.

We expected a higher attendance at Black Park than we got, and so had over-supply of maps. It was noted that having an over-supply of maps is better than a shortage.

8. Summer Series 2017 (Chris Poole)

Chris is also having problems finding Planner/Organisers. The plan is to have a Summer Series for 10 or 11 straight weeks on either Tuesdays or Wednesdays. This will start in the 1st week of May (at 7:15) and run through to the second week in July.

Chris commented that running events on Wednesdays tends to have reduced attendance if there is an Army MLS event on the same day.

Whilst numbers of registrations have dropped from 2013 levels, they have levelled out since then.

Chris would like to remind potential Planners/Organisers:

- No loop needs to be (or should be) longer than 2km
- Planners/Organisers are welcome to try different formats if they like

ACTION: Chris plans to send details of the series out shortly.

9. Oxford Street Series (Robin Bishop)

Series going well. Had a surprisingly high turnout of 9 despite dire snow warnings on one recent evening! January numbers have been down a little, though several people have been away. The web site (not the TVOC web site) did drop for a short while.

10. Other Mapping Topics

None

11. Officers Reports

a) Chairman:
None

b) Treasurer:
Nothing further to add



- c) Secretary:
Nothing further to add

- d) Captain:
Alison has notified the club to let her know about registration for JK and British Relay events
ACTION: John Dalton to contact Alison to see if she has plans to promote attendance at the CompassSport Cup on 12th March. TVOC will pay entry fees for this event.

- e) Membership Secretary:
None

12. Any Other Business

Date of next meeting:

Confirmed to be held at 8pm on Tuesday 15th March 2017 at The Merry Bells, Wheatley.