SOUTH EASTERN ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of the SEOA Committee meeting held on Thursday 10th March 2022**

**as a virtual meeting using the ‘Zoom’ software**

1. **Present**

Simon Greenwood SAX SEOA Chairman

David Saunders HH SEOA Treasurer

Angela Darley GO SEOA Junior Training Officer

Philip Gristwood MV SEOA Fixtures Secretary

Keith Marsden HH SEOA Secretary

David Rosen British Orienteering Director

Catherine Galvin LOK Alan Leakey SLOW

David Dawson DFOK David Dixon HH

Jon Darley GO Graham Batty HAVOC

Alan Wallis SN Andrew Evans DFOK

**Apologies for Absence**

 Susan Marsden HH SEOA Membership Secretary

Neil Crickmore SO SEOA Competitions Officer

 **2. Minutes of previous Committee Meeting**

The minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 9th December 2021 were accepted as a true record.

**3. Matters arising**

There were no items arising not covered by items later in the agenda.

**4. Update from the Board of British Orienteering**

David Rosen (DR) said that there had been a Board Meeting on 17th February.

He reported that two staff had left in the period since the last SEOA meeting and that Bernie Dietzig had been recruited as the new Performance Manager. He was previously with British Swimming.

DR also reported that Hilary Palmer (NOC) has resigned as Chair of Coaching Committee.

 He commented that the details of a Refund Policy were still under discussion.

British Orienteering has agreed to allocate the sum of £3000 towards the expenses of those members representing British Orienteering on IOF Commissions.

British Orienteering is also reviewing the date for membership renewals. As a temporary measure this year renewals for 2023 will be open at the beginning of September thus giving up to 16 months membership in the first year. This measure to be finally approved at the AGM.

However Scott Collier is working on a long term proposal, be it a rolling system or pro rata or other.

With respect to finance DR reported that the Major Events had done better than expected resulting in a small surplus. Therefore it is likely that no increase in membership and levy will be proposed at the AGM.

SportEngland have agreed to support worth £1.2m over 5 years. (Worth about £240k per year)

This is a similar figure to the previous 5 years.

The MapRun project has been rebadged as ‘Find your Way’. 7 areas and 9 clubs have signed up including SAX and DFOK. It’s worth noting that schools are not keen, principally due to the use of mobile phones.

AE commented on behalf of DFOK that there had been no events to date and a contract is being drawn up with British Orienteering.

DFOK and SAX are working together on the project, and like all the other participating clubs, aiming to target areas of deprivation. They hope to be up and running very soon and have set up a monthly inter-club liaison call,

They plan to organise a few launch events.

**5. Major Events**

*Completed events.*

**Southern Champs (12th December)**

The Chairman says that it seems to have gone off OK and he extended his thanks to MV and SAX.

*Future Events*

**BOC 2022 (25th 26th March 2022)**

Andrew Evans reported that Helen Errington, had for health reasons stood down, as Coordinator and Neil and Susan Crickmore had stepped in to organise the Relays and Charles Spence (LOK) organising Day 1.

 On the Trail ‘O’ front it has been decided to hold an event at the local school on the Saturday with the British Trail ‘O’ Champs at Hogmoor, near Bordon, on the Sunday

With regard to finance, the budget for the 2019 event was set based on 1400 individual and 850 relay entries. For the current event this has been reduced to 1300 individual and 800 relay entries. To date there are 1273 individual entries. There will be on the day entries for colour coded courses.

So far there are 204 relay entries (612 participants) and the hope is for 700 by the time of the event with a closing date right up to the date of the event.

About 30 have entered the Trail ‘O’ event.

AE commented, in answer to a question, that there are issues most days but they are mostly solved on the day. There is currently no significant cause for concern.

In answer to further questions he said that the event is ‘mostly fully staffed’ and that the British Orienteering Trail ‘O’ group are involved in the Trail ‘O’ events.

AE (as Chair of Orienteering Foundation) had also supplied a status report from the Foundation. (See appendix D)

AE commented that SEOA clubs looking to increase their membership with support from Orienteering Foundation towards a part-time Club Development Officer are recommended to watch the presentation by Pauline Tryner (SYO) at the British Orienteering Development Conference. There is also a presentation from the Foundation and CLOK within the Development Conference materials.

Clubs may wish to consider a dedicated club Development Officer with partial funding over 2-3 years to compensate for the lack of volunteer time.

AL commented that perhaps two SEOA clubs could share a bid to Orienteering. Foundation and it was suggested that SEOA may also be able to help with funding.

**SHI 2022 (10th-11th September)**

It now seems likely that SCOA will host along with their November Classic event.

 **Southern Championships (2024)**

There is a tentative offer from GO to be discussed at the next Fixtures meeting in May.

 **Action; All**

**JK (2027)**

As the format for future JK’s is under discussion little can be done except think of possible options.

**Action; All**

**Other Major Events**

PG mentioned that SEOA is not pencilled in for other major events in the near future and that when the next Interland comes round SAX and DFOK may be interested in hosting.

**6. Officers Reports**

**6.1 SEOA Chairman**

The Chairman had nothing further to report.

**6.2 SEOA Secretary**

 The Secretary had provided a written report (Appendix A).

It was reported that two clubs had responded to Emma Monkman, British Orienteering Access and Environment Officer, regarding discussions with Forestry Commission.

**6.3**  **SEOA Treasurer**

DS had supplied a Treasurer’s Report and an interim Income and Expenditure statement up to 10th March 2022. (Appendix B).

He said it was quiet being early in the year.

DD observed that DFOK had donated the profits from their SE League event at Chelwood to the Orienteering Foundation and that although DFOK had wondered whether SEOA would donate the levy due on the event this had now been paid. DD and DS suggested that SEOA might consider donating to Orienteering Foundation He did suggest that maybe we should consider donating to Orienteering Foundation but that this was a decision for the AGM. There was a precedent, as SEOA had donated to Orienteering Foundation following a previous JK.

**6.4 SEOA Membership Secretary**

The Membership Secretary had provided a written report (Appendix E)

It was commented that it was perhaps early days to judge whether we are getting back to ‘normal’ but perhaps we are doing better than expected.

Perhaps now is the time to ‘strike’ whilst people are looking for an outdoor activity.

 **Action; All**

**6.5 SEOA Competitions Officer**

The Secretary had received an e-mail from the Competitions Officer as below;

 ‘*Nothing much to report from myself as most of my admin time has been spent on BOC matters. I did though have a productive meeting with Katy Stubbs (SCOA) and we have put together an updated Powerpoint presentation for a Level B/C controllers course and are in the process of getting other material ready. I've also been trying to keep the relevant sections of the SEOA website up-to-date.’*

It was suggested that clubs with members wishing to attend a Controllers course should let Neil Crickmore (SO) aware of that fact.

 **Action; All**

6.6 SEOA Junior Training Officer

AD had provided a Junior Training Report (Appendix C)

 She reported that the 2022 Junior Interregional Championships will be held in Northern Ireland. Previously NIOA had arranged coach travel from the Belfast airports.

It was hoped that the cost did not breach the SEOA individual grant limits.

AD will keep the Treasurer in the picture with regard to costs.

 Action; AD

She confirmed that only juniors who had shown full time commitment to SEJS received an ‘O’ top.

There being a question regarding the addition of VAT on the tops. AD said that the exporter was doing the paperwork and that VAT will be added on entry to GB.

The Chairman approved the purchase of the ‘O’ Tops it being over £500.

 Action; AD/DS

**6.7 SEOA and BOF Fixtures**

PG commented that in 2027 we were due to hold the JK, Southern Champs and SHI. He felt comfortable with this as these were spread throughout the year. And that in any case the last two were usually added on to regular events.

He had so far received one offer for hosting the Southern Champs and an expression of interest regarding the SHI.

He was able to report that he had offers for the SE Championships in 2022 and 2023 and the CSC qualifier in 2022.

As regards the SE Relays, HH had pulled out for 2022 but GO may be able to hold the event. SLOW may host it in 2023.

The Chairman commented that the Relays needed ’half-decent’ terrain.

Regarding the SE Sprint Championships PG has an offer for 2022 but was seeking a host for 2023. As this was a Level C event there should be no problem in finding a date.

However the dates for Level B events are fixed nationally.

PG reported a full SEL programme and that the calendar was full for summer 2022.

The British Orienteering Event Scheduling Group is due to meet this weekend (12th March) and will be taking offers for 2023.

The next SEOA Fixtures meeting is scheduled for the 11th May with SO hosting.

 **7. Any other business**

 Alan Leakey raised the subject of the circulation of event details (flyers) ie how to advertise events around the clubs.

He felt that it needed to be driven;

* Send event details to Club Chairmen?
* Informal circulation of details?

There was a general discussion, with the following points made;

* Is this a SEOA focussed thing? Including Advertising?
* Should it be on the web site?
* Are we talking about Club Events or Regional events
* Should SEOA have a Face book page? SLOW had paid for advertising on Facebook and would not recommend.
* Clubs should look to cross promote each other's events when part of an organised series.
* Passing information on; we know some clubs are better than others.
* Beware bombarding members with information
* A number of clubs have a weekly newsletter; SN, MV, SLOW.
* If Facebook, is the demographic right? And would we need someone to manage it!

There was no obvious solution to this problem that is difficult to define.

**9. Date of next meetings**

9th June 2022 (With AGM)

8th September 2022

8th December 2022

**APPENDIX A**

**South East Orienteering Association**

**Committee Meeting 10th March 2022**

**Secretary’s Report**

 Emma Monkman, British Orienteering Access and Environment officer, reported that she was in touch with the Forestry Commission and asked clubs for their feedback regarding relations with that organisation.

There had been a recall for all British Championships Trophies.

Bernie Dietzig, has been appointed the British Orienteering Performance Pathway Director. Bernie joins us from British Swimming where he led the programme to prepare and support the Olympic Team at three Olympic Games.

A reminder that World Orienteering Day this year will be on 11-17th May.

 Keith Marsden

**APPENDIX B**

**Treasurer’s Report to the March 2022 SEOA Committee Meeting**

Interim 2022 SEOA Accounts

These are detailed below. There is little activity as yet for 2022.

Banking Arrangements

Our bankers, HSBC, began making a monthly charge of £5.00 to administer our account from January 2022.

JHI 2021

SLOW have repaid the loan of £1,584 made by SEOA to help cover the costs of the JHI in 2021 (postponed from 2020) less £295 (50% of the loss sustained on the event – as agreed by the SEOA committee at its December 2021 meeting).

David Saunders 2 March 2022

|  |
| --- |
| **Income and expenditure statement at 28 February 2022** |
|
| **INCOME** |   |
| Subscriptions | 0.00 |
| Event levies | 156.00 |
| Interest | 0.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | 156.00 |
|   |   |
| **EXPENDITURE** |   |
| Junior grants | 0.00 |
| Junior training / expenses | 93.20 |
| Development courses & conferences | 200.00 |
| English Orienteering Council | 0.00 |
| Officers' expenses | 0.00 |
| Competitions | 0.00 |
| Communications | 0.00 |
| Bank charges | 10.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 |
| **TOTAL EXPENDITURE**  | 303.20 |
|  |   |
| **SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)** | (147.20) |
| Net Assets @ 1 January | 20,720.46 |
|   |   |
| **TOTAL NET ASSETS** | 20,573.26 |

**APPENDIX C**

SEOA Junior Report Mar 2022

We are back to monthly training sessions, and have a number of new juniors starting to attend, mainly in the 14 age group. Not many M16s at the moment. We are also holding online sessions before major events using zoom. Also some new coaches we attended the recent HH coaching course.

Two things to note:

JIRCs 2022 is in Northern Ireland, the plan is to fly to Belfast and then hopefully there will be transport from Belfast to the area sorted by the organisers (nothing confirmed yet). We will select the team quite early and once w shave details from the organiser will look to book flights. I don’t have details of costs yet, but it is likely to be more than recent years. It may well be that we will need to do this before the next committee meeting.

O-tops, a few years ago we bought a some o-tops but we are low on stock, especially in the smaller sizes which is what we need for the new younger members. I have had a quote Bryzos, the price has gone up 2 euros to €26 and she has explained the import process. If we get 20, cost will be about 650 (including delivery / import duty).

Angela Darley

**APPENDIX** **D**

Orienteering Foundation report March 2022

Andrew Evans was confirmed as the Orienteering Foundation chair for the forthcoming year.

Latest news.

1. The Newcomer Retention Group report was published and can be viewed [here](https://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/documents/Newcomer_Retention_Group_report_191221.pdf)
2. The Orienteering Foundation took part in 2 of the recent Development conference sessions, Retaining beginner orienteers and Supporting club development through the employment of a Club Development Officer, if you missed them you can watch the sessions [here](https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/webinars).
3. The Foundation is considering how they can help clubs with materials to support the findings of the Retaining beginner’s work.
4. The Aspiring Elite project had reported back and was broadly on track.
5. A grant to support Swansea Bay Orienteering Club was agreed to enable them to employ a part time development officer.
6. We have a vacancy for a Trustee following the resignation of Georgia Jones. Further information can be found [here](https://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/georgia-jones-stepping-down-as-trustee).

If you would like to read more about this news or would like to find out more about the work of the Foundation please see their web site, [www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk](http://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk), Why not sign up for the Orienteering [newsletter](https://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/subscribe-to-our-email-list), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/orienteeringfoundation/), or [Twitter](https://twitter.com/oingfoundation) accounts .

Andrew Evans

Trustee

Orienteering Foundation

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**APPENDIX E**

SEOA Membership Report March 2022

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **2022 total** |  |  |  |  |  |  | **2021 total** |  |  |  |  |  |  | **2020 total** |  |  |  |  | **% increase** |
| **28/02/2022** |  | **Senior** | **Junior** |  | **Total** |  | **28/02/2021** |  | **Senior** | **Junior** |  | **Total** |  | **29/02/2020** |  | **Senior** | **Junior** |  | **Total** |  | **2022 -2020** |
| BAOC |  | 8 | 0 |  | 8 |  | BAOC |  | 3 | 0 |  | 3 |  | BAOC |  | 7 | 1 |  | 8 |  | 0 |
| CHIG |  | 33 | 1 |  | 34 |  | CHIG |  | 31 | 3 |  | 34 |  | CHIG |  | 32 | 1 |  | 33 |  | 3 |
| DFOK |  | 68 | 19 |  | 87 |  | DFOK |  | 50 | 15 |  | 65 |  | DFOK |  | 56 | 13 |  | 69 |  | 26 |
| GO |  | 47 | 19 |  | 66 |  | GO |  | 36 | 13 |  | 49 |  | GO |  | 49 | 23 |  | 72 |  | -8 |
| HAVOC |  | 5 | 0 |  | 5 |  | HAVOC |  | 2 | 0 |  | 2 |  | HAVOC |  | 5 | 0 |  | 5 |  | 0 |
| HH |  | 147 | 65 |  | 212 |  | HH |  | 134 | 56 |  | 190 |  | HH |  | 153 | 88 |  | 241 |  | -12 |
| LOK |  | 39 | 7 |  | 46 |  | LOK |  | 37 | 7 |  | 44 |  | LOK |  | 47 | 6 |  | 53 |  | -13 |
| MV |  | 69 | 10 |  | 79 |  | MV |  | 63 | 12 |  | 75 |  | MV |  | 60 | 12 |  | 72 |  | 10 |
| RAFO |  | 3 | 0 |  | 3 |  | RAFO |  | 2 | 0 |  | 2 |  | RAFO |  | 8 | 0 |  | 8 |  | -63 |
| SAX |  | 82 | 28 |  | 110 |  | SAX |  | 67 | 14 |  | 81 |  | SAX |  | 82 | 20 |  | 102 |  | 8 |
| SLOW |  | 130 | 22 |  | 152 |  | SLOW |  | 120 | 19 |  | 139 |  | SLOW |  | 153 | 25 |  | 178 |  | -15 |
| SN |  | 29 | 12 |  | 41 |  | SN |  | 15 | 4 |  | 19 |  | SN |  | 38 | 16 |  | 54 |  | -24 |
| SO |  | 170 | 44 |  | 214 |  | SO |  | 151 | 40 |  | 191 |  | SO |  | 202 | 63 |  | 265 |  | -19 |
|   |  |  |  |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| TOTAL |   | 830 | 227 |   | **1057** |  | TOTAL |   | 711 | 183 |   | **894** |  | TOTAL |   | 892 | 268 |   | **1160** |  | -9 |

As membership declined last year (blame COVID) I thought it more useful to compare this year’s current membership with 2020 membership. As you can see we have decreased by 9% in the two years. In previous years’ the decline has been about 3% it would therefore be good to slow the rate of decline during this year.