SOUTH EASTERN ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of the SEOA Committee meeting held on Thursday 8 June**

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

**1. Attendance**

* 1. **Present**

Sarah Brown SLOW SEOA Chair

Philip Craven DFOK

Neil Crickmore SO SEOA Competitions Officer

Angela Darley GO SEOA Junior Training Officer

Jon Darley GO

David Dixon HH

Catherine Galvin LOK

Philip Gristwood MV SEOA Fixtures Secretary

David Rosen LOK British Orienteering Director

Alison Saunders HH SEOA Secretary

David Saunders HH SEOA Treasurer

Alan Wallis SN

1.2. Apologies received:

Graham Batty HAVOC

Charles Bromley Gardiner BAOC

David Dawson DFOK

Susan Marsden HH SEOA Membership Secretary

**2. Minutes of previous Committee Meeting**

The minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 9th March 2023 were accepted as a true record.

**3. Matters arising**

Although a short-term issue over trophy repair costs had been resolved, SB, AS and DS had yet to meet to discuss how to approach the other ‘southern’ regions (SCOA and SWOA) about responsibilities and finances for the Southern Championships and Southern Night Championships, which move around these regions. They hoped to meet before the next committee meeting. **Action: SB, AS, DS**

CG reported that the BOF refund policy had been circulated to all clubs. This policy recommends that if an event is cancelled, a full refund less administration costs should be made. However, CG discovered that the JK 2023 had used an older policy thar would have allowed the organisers to recover unavoidable costs. It seems to be up to clubs. CG had discussed this with DR, but evidently the BOF board has yet to discuss this matter again. Equally, it is still unclear whether it is a legal requirement to give a full refund. AW felt that it was important that clubs know whether they are breaking the law. CG agreed to write to Peter Hart to ask for clarification of the legal position, preferrable by seeing the legal advice on which BOF was acting.

**Action: CG**

As SLOW and LOK are part of the team running the Tuesday Evening London Park series, SB wondered whether the SEJS could take on the planning of one of these events as part of their attempt to raise funds for JROS. DR mentioned that LOK had experienced difficulties liaising with planners outside the club. SB and AD will discuss.

**Action: SB, AD**

PG had spoken to ME about Army use of the BOC/BRC 2022 areas. The matter had been resolved and was reflected in his report to this meeting an in the fixtures list in Appendix A.

There was nothing further to report on the issue of safeguarding. AS noted that all club secretaries should recently have been circulated information about some courses that are relevant.

Publicity for the AGM had included a mailing announcing the meeting that also asked for any proposed changes to the constitution or proposals for election as officers of SEOA, and later mailings giving first the agenda and then details of the zoom link. This was emailed to all club reps who attend SEOA committee meetings and all club secretaries. Some clubs were unsure if these emails had been received. Clubs experiencing difficulties were asked to check that generic accounts of the type secretary@ were working and directed to the current secretary. **Action: All clubs**

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

David Rosen (DR) had provided a summary.

Two meetings of the Board have been held; at end of April and end of May .

Charles Daniel is chair of new Rules Group, whose membership will soon be publicised.

Alex Welch, the new Communications Officer, has prepared a three-year Marketing and Engagement plan. The Board agreed to increase the budget for this area from the previously budgeted £90K over three years to £160K over three years.

Baroudeur Consultancy had been asked by SOA to devise a plan to "Make the most of WOC 24". The proposed programme would cost about £100K. The Board decided that not to support this proposal, but elements would be supported by the Marketing and Engagement plan.

The 2023 AGM will be on Saturday 16 September at Decathlon in Canary Wharf immediately after the London City Race.

The 2022 Accounts have been signed off by the Board. The £14k deficit is small compared to assets of c. £500k.

Following the membership review, the following proposals will be presented at the AGM:

• The membership fees for new members in their first year of membership to be pro-rata (Full, then two-thirds, then one-third).

• A new membership category for families

• A new membership category for young adults (21–25)

• A new levy fee for non-members seniors only

• An increase in the club affiliation fees

• An increase of senior membership levies and junior membership levies

Ruth Beale is standing down as a director. Alison Howe (SAX) is standing for election.

Membership figures appear to a little lower than anticipated (8,600 predicted against 9,000 budget) but the number of runs will probably be higher (140,000 predicted against 130,000 budget)

A response has been sent to the IOF Consultation on its draft Transgender policy. BOF supports the proposed policy (which is similar to that adopted by World Athletics) and suggests that the Men's Category be renamed Open. The Board voted to support an implementation date for the IOF Policy of 1 January 2024.

A memorandum of understanding has been approved with the English Orienteering Council. EOC had requested this to formalise its position.

There were a number of appeals following the international selections made this spring. The appeals panel rejected three and sent one back for review. As part of the appeal findings, some recommendations have been made regarding the appeals process.

In response to an enquiry about the level of the new fees, DR confirmed the following figures for 2024.

Senior £15.00 Senior member Levy £1.65

Junior £5.00 Junior Member Levy £0.55

Young Adult £10.00 Senior Non-Member Levy £2.50

Family £35.00 Junior Non-Member Levy £0.55

Club £80.00

University Club £25.00

DR confirmed that the proposals he described were subject to ratification at the AGM.

SB asked about a WOC marketing plan as the event is quite soon. DR responded that Alex Welch was working with board members on this. SB urged urgency. There was some discussion about the difference between promoting the event itself and benefitting from its legacy. The former is being handled by SOA and the S6D company, the latter might be covered by the Marketing and Engagement plan. It was pointed out that legacy might be harder if the event was not well publicised. DR had contacted the Danish organisers of WOC 2022, but they had not found it easy to generate interest in the sport.

There was some discussion about how BOF’s new membership and fee structure could affect those of clubs and regions, as many will already have set their fees for 2024 and might send a return to BOF before the AGM. DR said that the decision to hold the AGM this late in the year was dictated by the fixture calendar and it was proposed to return to earlier in the year.

DD commented that low-cost events aimed to engage new orienteers would be hit be the increase non-member levy. DR clarified that the proposed levies apply to registered events at all levels.

**5. Major Events**

PG presented a list of major events that are due to be held in the southeast over the next few years. These, combined with a list of future SE fixtures, are presented in more detail in Appendix A.

Those that are most pressing, or require particular action, are:

**Southern Championships** 2024 – hosted by GO at Redlands (Ambersham as reserve).

**Southern Night Championships** 2023: hosted by BAOC/SN at Pirbright Ranges.

**Southern Night Championships** 2024: Due to be in SEOA, but BKO are staging on Star Posts in December.

JK 2027: In SE 26 to 29 March. Possible opportunity to use Lynchmere (long), Ambersham (middle) and Surrey University (sprints). Relay venue needed. A sub-committee should be set up in May 2024 to progress the event.

Home Internationals: SHI due to be held in SE in 2027. Need an accessible venue. No other HIs until after 2031.

**British Sprint Championships**: Depending on the BOF major event review, these are due to be in SE in 2025 or thereafter. GO areas opposite Surrey University used for SE Sprint Champs 2022.

**British Sprint Relays**: 17 September 2023; LOK at Brunel University (the day after the City of London race).

**British Middle Distance Championships**: 16 March 2025; MV at Holmbush & Buchan Hill. SO considering whether it is possible to organise the British Relay Championships the following day.

British Night Champs: Offers needed for 2025. HH and DFOK have expressed some interest.

CSC Final: Some interest from SN for 2026.

Junior events: DFOK have offered 17 November 2024 at Shorne Country Park for BSOC 2024. HH will stage YBT final in 2024 at Northaw, with Burnham as a reserve. SO may be able to host the YBT final in a future year.

PG noted that SEOA fulfilled its commitments to stage major events and often took on events when other regions were unable to host them.

**6. Officers Reports**

6.1. SEOA Chairman

No report

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6.2. SEOA Secretary

No report

6.3. SEOA Treasurer

DS had submitted a written report and an update of SEOA’s finances (Appendix B). As expected, there is generally low expenditure at beginning of the year. Income is flowing in from event levies.

6.4. SEOA Membership Secretary

SM had submitted a written report to the AGM, which is appended to those minutes and gives a snapshot of current SEOA membership.

6.5. SEOA Competitions Officer

Referring to the new Rules Group mentioned in point 4, SEOA is represented on that group by David May.

NC is seeking to have Ronan and Julie Cleary appointed as Grade A controllers by BOF. Such a recommendation requires the endorsement of the SEOA, which was given nem con.

6.6. SEOA Junior Training Officer

The Junior training officer reported that no information was yet available for JIRCs in South Wales in September. She will inform the Chair and Treasurer when fees are due for payment. A minibus will be hired from a local school in the SE, which should help reduce costs. Junior selections for summer tours had been confirmed: AD will circulate. Action: AD

The SEJS tour in October will be to Gothenburg. To help cover the higher cost, juniors and parents will be fundraising, so that SEOA’s contribution is not excessive. There will be a cake stall at SE Sprints (SLOW) event next weekend and AD will approach other clubs to ask if they will allow a similar venture. The British Sprint Relays in September (LOK) might be such an opportunity. CG offered to send AD the organiser’s contact details.

6.7. SEOA Fixtures Secretary

PG presented a list of SE events that are in hand; these are presented in more detail in Appendix A.

In summary:

**CSC heat** in place for 2024 (18 February, SLOW, Esher) and in hand for 2025 (CHIG) and 2026 (SN).

**SE Long Champs** in place for 2024 (1 December, SN, Ash Ranges and 2025 (2 February, GO, Blackheath).

**SE Relays** 2023 is proving problematic. The 2024 event may be SLOW in Glovers Wood. 2025/2026 in hand.

# SE Sprint Champs in place for 2024 (LOK, Brunel Uni) and in hand for 2025 (SN) and 2026 (HH).

# SE Middle Champs in place for 2024 (6 October, GO, Puttenham) and in hand for 2025 (SLOW/LOK) and 2026 (LOK/SLOW).

# SE Night Champs in place for 2023 (18 November, LOK, Addington Hills). No firm offers for 2024 or 2025.

**SE Families & Vets** in place for 2023 (17 December, Norbury Park) and in hand by MV for 2024 and 2025.

**City of London Race** in place for 2023 (16 September, Rotherhithe) and in hand by SLOW for 2024 and 2025.

In addition to events above, eight SE League events are scheduled for the 2023/2024 season and eight for the 2024/2025 season.

The next Fixtures meeting is 2 November 2023.

The next Event Scheduling Group meeting is 16 October 2023.

**7. Any other business**

7.1 SEOA Constitution

The Committee will discuss the SEOA constitution at their September meeting. All members of SEOA are invited to comment on areas of the constitution that they feel need alteration, so that changes can be collated and put to a vote at the next AGM. The current constitution can be found on the website:

<https://www.seoa.org.uk/images/SEOA-CONSTITUTION-September-2019.pdf>

**Action All clubs, SEOA members and SEOA committee reps.**

7.2 SEOA Website

Although the SEOA website is maintained by Paul Frost, no-one has overall responsibility for its content. In a distributed process, club officers update parts of the site relevant to their activities. DS mentioned that in a recent conversation, Simon Errington had suggested that he, perhaps helped by James Errington, might be willing to look after website. It was agreed that even if they were only able to commit limited time to this, it was likely to improve the current situation and that they should be approached more formally.

**Action: DS**

7.3 Orienteering Foundation

A report from the Orienteering Foundation had been received from Andrew Evans and is appended as Appendix C.

**8. Dates of next meetings**

It was agreed that all meetings would continue to be held online rather than in person, commencing at 19:30.

Members of the committee asked that the dates of meetings be fixed well ahead – see dates for 2024 below.

14th September 2023 @ 19:30

14th December 2023 @ 19:30

7th March 2024 @19.30

6th June 2024 @ 19.30 (with AGM)

**APPENDIX A**

**Fixture Secretary’s Report**

**(Minutes of Fixtures Group meeting)**

**1. Major Events**

**British Champs/Relay**

Next turn for SE 2031

**Southern Champs (National)** (all regional champs now level B)

2024 GO at Redlands 4Feb. Currently hopeful will go ahead. Ambersham possible alternative area.

Next turn 2027: SN have offered to host.

**Southern Night Champs:**

2023 Plan is for Army/SN to run on Pirbright ranges on 25th Nov. Officials all in place, permissions confirmed, and arrangements made for mapping. Civilian access still to be confirmed. Currently registered by SN but needs to be changed to BAOC.

2024 Was SEOA turn. SC have an offer from BKO for Dec 2024 on Star Posts.

Harvester:

2023 25th June BAOC in NE (Unlikely to happen!)

2024 BOF looking for offers, maybe 30th June. SN cannot host at Wellington School.

2025 Also needs offers.

JK 2027:

26th to 29th March. Next SE turn. Possible opportunity to use Lynchmere with Ambersham for Middles and Surrey Uni for sprints. Need to start thinking about a venue for the relays. In a year or so (May 24) we will set up a small sub-committee to progress this.

SHI:

Next SE turn 2027 No other HI’s until after 2031 (previously hosted VHI and JHI in 21). Need a location reasonably accessible to the rest of the UK. Action: Clubs to consider.

British Sprint Champs:

Assuming things don’t change in the major event review it would be our turn soon after 2025.

GO have two areas (opposite Surrey University) which they think would be suitable for this event as well as previously using it for SE Sprint Champs. 2026 may be a possibility in Uni holidays perhaps end July. SO may be able to take it on in an odd year, 2025 or 27, but with date constraints. Action: SO to check and firm up offer.

British Sprint Relays:

2023 17th Sept LOK at Brunel Uni. In conjunction with CoL race the day before.

British Middle Distance Champs 2025:

MV Holmbush & Buchan Hill on 16th March. BOF have asked whether we could do British Relays in conjunction with this – SO will consider. Action: SO to confirm

British Night Champs:

Needs offers for 2025 (on 8th Feb). Last done in SE in 2014. HH and DFOK both expressed some interest. Action: HH/DFOK to confirm interest.

CSC Finals:

Hosts needed from 2024 onwards. Last hosted in SE in 2019 by MV. It was suggested we might consider doing it again in 2026. SN expressed interest. Action: SN to consider/confirm.

JIRCS:

2029 Next SE turn (last done in 2017)

Junior events:

Hosts were needed for 4 events, most urgent was BSOC 23. SE did it in 2021. DFOK have offered to host 17/11/24 at Shorne Woods CP.

YBT Final 7th July 2024 and onwards, looking for hosts. We last did it in 2016 (and 2014 and 2009). HH confirmed will do YBT final 2024, maybe at Northaw (other ideas for backup including Burnham Beeches),

SO may be able to take on the YBT final in an odd year, perhaps 6th July 2025 at Capite Wood. Action: SO to confirm (but 2 years running in SE may be undesirable).

PPJTR SE did it in 2019

BSSC SE did it in 2015. Mid October 2024 perhaps. HH and GO not able to progress.

Action: Clubs to consider.

**2. CSC, SEOA Major Events**

**CSC (National)**

From 2023 the 2 alternative dates experiment has been scrapped and we are back to a single date nationwide.

2024 SLOW 18th Feb: Esher

2025 CHIG 16th Feb

2026 SN Need to check areas

# SE Champs (Long) (National)

# Time of year not important, will pick the most suitable (spring?) Level B event when areas have been decided.

2024 SN 1st Dec at Ash Ranges

2025 GO 2nd Feb at Blackheath

2026 SAX

**SE Relays (Regional)**

2023 SN have nowhere suitable **Action:** Any other offers?

2024 SLOW May or June, Glovers Wood (but permission difficult so working on plan B) **Action:** Confirmation of date/location required

2025 DFOK Brasted Chart

2026 CHIG in May

# SE Sprint Champs (Regional)

2023 SLOW 11th June Ham Riverside

2024 LOK Brunel Uni, tbc: summer sometime, probably uni holidays.

2025 SN

2026 HH

# SE Middle Distance Champs (Regional)

2024 GO 6th October, Puttenham

2025 SLOW or LOK

2026 LOK or SLOW

**SE Night Champs (Regional)**

Need date preferably before Southern Night Champs and BNC. Usually a Regional on the following day’

2023 LOK Addington Hills, 18th November

2024 GO & CHIG unable to take on a night event. SAX perhaps, or HH/SN

2025 HH or SN

**SE Families & Vets (Regional)**

2023 MV 17th December, Norbury Park

2024 MV 15th Dec Balcombe

2025 MV 7th December

## City of London Race (National)

2023 SLOW 16th September Rotherhithe Plus DFOK S of river on Friday at Southwark Park and LOK Team sprint relays day after.

2024 SLOW 14th Sept Barbican Prov.

2025 SLOW 13th Sept

**3. National events**

**Planned for 2023:**

27/8 MV Urban Reigate, SEOUL

16/9 SLOW CoL race

17/9 LOK British Sprint Relay Champs

19/11 SAX Kingswood, Challock SEL 1

26/11 SN Mytchett/Windmill Hill SN Trophy SEL 2

03/12 CHIG Epping NW SEL 3

**Planned for 2024:**

14/1 DFOK Westerham SEL 4

04/2 GO Redlands SEL 5 & S Champs

11/2 MV Holmbush & Buchan SEL 6

18/2 SLOW Esher Common CSC Heat

25/2 HH Ashridge SEL 7

12/5 SO Houghton Forest SEL 8

7/7 HH Northaw (prov.) YBT Final

25/8 MV Dorking Urban

14/9 SLOW CoL race

10/11 SLOW Hankley SEL 1

17/11 DFOK Shorne Woods CP BSOC

24/11 SAX Eridge Park SEL 2

1/12 SN Ash Ranges SN Trophy & SE Long Champs SEL 3 (or 8/12)

8/12 CHIG Epping Far E (maybe Middle dist) SEL 4 (or 1/12)

**Planned for 2025:**

9/2 MV White Downs & W Ranmore SEL 5

2/2 GO Blackheath & SE Long Champs SEL 6

16/2 CHIG CSC Heat

9/3 HH tbc SEL 7

11/5 SO Worth Lodge SEL 8

30/8 MV Urban

23/11 SAX tbc SEL

30/11 SN SEL

14/12 CHIG Epping N SEL

CHIG want to swap with MV to 7/12. **Action**: MV to confirm agreement.

**SE League**

10 for 2022/23, currently 8 for 2023/24 and 8 for 2024/25

**4. Level C and D events**

No discussion of Level C and D events.

**Action**: Clubs to notify PG as and when plans are firmed up

**GLOSS** - 6 events currently planned and registered for 2023

18/6 CHIG   
25/6 DFOK

1/7 HH

9/7 MV   
16/7 SLOW  
23/7 LOK

**5. Miscellaneous**

# Yvette Baker Trophy

Target is to hold YBT rounds on a common date across the regions if possible. Proposed period is from mid March to mid May. Event (preferably at Level C, i.e. not a SEL event if possible) normally to be selected at November meeting based on Steve J’s suggestions after having checked school holidays.

Steve J recently suggested the following dates in 2024 which avoid the school holidays:-

10th March date available

17th March SO Regional

23rd March (sat) SN Local

24th March CHIG Regional Would be happy to be reserve.

20th April (sat) SN Local Would be happy to host (have done on Saturday before)

21st April date available

5th May date available

19th May date available

Action: Steve to review and confirm favoured option, and clubs could consider hosting on one of the suggested dates

**Ashdown Forest** – Nothing to report

6**. AOB** Some discussion of the number of champs we put on.

**7. Next fixtures meetings**

Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 19:30 on Zoom, and Thursday 2nd May 2024

Next Event Scheduling Group meetings:. via Zoom 16th October 2023 and 11th March 2024

Philip Gristwood SE Fixtures Sec.

**APPENDIX B**

**Treasurer’s Report**

Interim 2023 SEOA Accounts

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Income and expenditure statement at 29 May 2023** | |
|  |  |
| **INCOME** |  |
| Subscriptions | 0.00 |
| Event levies | 519.60 |
| Interest | 28.40 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | 548.00 |
|  |  |
| **EXPENDITURE** |  |
| Junior grants | 298.50 |
| Junior training / expenses | 265.45 |
| Development courses & conferences | 270.00 |
| English Orienteering Council | 0.00 |
| Officers' expenses | 0.00 |
| Competitions | 233.22 |
| Communications | 0.00 |
| Bank charges | 25.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 49.86 |
| **TOTAL EXPENDITURE** | 1,142.03 |
|  |  |
| **SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)** | (594.03) |
|  |  |
| Net Assets @ 1 January | 21,937.77 |
|  |  |
| **TOTAL NET ASSETS** | 21,343.74 |

Income

The levies for two further SE League events and the regional CompassSport Cup match have been received. Annual membership subscription fees not due until the autumn.

Expenditure

No expenditure other than modest costs for SEJS training. Major costs generally fall later in the year.

**David Saunders 29 May 2023**

**APPENDIX C**

Report from the Orienteering Foundation June 2023

Latest news:

* The Foundation has 2 New Ambassadors, Caroline Mackenzie has taken over from Duncan Archer in the NE, and Philip Jones will be representing Wales. Duncan who recently moved will still continue with the website/social media role.
* A grant was agreed to JROS towards their UKCC level 2 Coaching course for up to 8 young coaches, this will be held in Inverness in July.
* Alastair Pedley was given a grant to help his attendance at the IOF Young Leaders Academy.
* British Orienteering were given a grant towards their Aspiring GBR performance coach programme.
* The Legacy donations programme was relaunched with a postcard drop at the British Championships, more information about the programme can be found here.
* The Foundation was working on a Poster template to follow on from the Newcomers retention group work. More details to follow shortly.

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 the web site, [www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk](http://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk).

Why not sign up for the Orienteering Foundation newsletter, Facebook or Twitter accounts.

Andrew Evans

Trustee Orienteering Foundation

07794 379711

[andrew.evans444@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.evans444@btinternet.com)

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