



Berkshire Orienteers

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

7.30pm 25th Sept 25
The Cricketers, Cricketers Lane.
Warfield. RG42 6JT

Present: Simon Moore (Chair), Brian Sewell, Derick Mercer, Bo Oqvist, Rob Mullens, Peter Entwistle, Ian Hudson.

Apologies: John Methven, Mark Foxwell, Fiona Clough, Lynne Moore (Treasurer)

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting (24th July 25)

Matters Arising –

- Lynne has suggested that we have a non-members mailing list for those that agree to receive further information. The wording needs to be correct. Update July – Simon will check Racesignup for entry wording for BKO format. Update Sept – SM confirmed that we can collect email addresses. Update Jan – Mark sent his apologies for the meeting. Update March – Mark Foxwell said he has set up the whatsapp community. Within that you can set up subsidiary groups. Simon said we still need an email address for people to be able to sign onto. A reliable email list is the priority. Update – Ongoing. *Update July – Mark, ongoing.*
Action; MF Ongoing
- New BOF Safeguarding Officer Jennette Downing. Simon will update the BKO website.
Action; Complete
- From the SCOA Meeting it was asked whether ‘there is an appetite within the club to take part in and support the delivery of a coaching weekend for adult orienteers’ – sponsored by The Orienteering Foundation – like the coaching weekend in the Lake District. Simon will talk to Mark & John for interest, if they are then we can open it to members.
Action; SM
- From the SCOA meeting. Can we use Whiteknights as the Sprint area for JK2029 This was chewed over at length and other alternatives considered but discarded (permission would not be forthcoming/restricted numbers permitted). Simon will talk to John to see if this is possible.
Action; SM
- Katy has requested to be removed from the Committee email list.
Action; MF

2. Chairman’s Update

2.1 Chair’s Update.

- Well done to Denise for results in recent high profile events.
- The Concorde Chase Cold Ash claim has been settled with the farmer.
- Trish is looking at placing another Club kit order.

3. Membership Secretary

- Ian said that we currently have, National 111 members (+3) – 4 local – no group members.

4. SCOA Report –

- Fiona emailed through the following update from the meeting held 4th September.

1. Question – do we hold any SCOA assets (i.e. stuff purchase for a SCOA event)? It is planned to have a list of SCOA assets that can be loaned between clubs on the newly revamped SCOA website. We have some folding map boxes in the storage room, and I have the little pop-up toilet/video camera on tripod tent at home. Anything else? **Answer - No**

The website is a topic of constant discussion regarding what ‘functionality’ on the SCOA website would be helpful to clubs.

2. The Orienteering Foundation SCOA rep is no longer Alun Jones (TVOC) and has been taken over by Christine Currie (SOC).
3. SCOA League rule changes – over 16’s cannot run White, Yellow and Orange courses and additionally, it is now necessary to take part in 50% of the SCOA League events in a year (rounded up to the nearest even number). Previously a competitor needed to have taken part in a minimum of 3 events, but the number of events may be lower than 5.
4. Katy has been asked to run both a planners course and a controllers course (6 from TVOC for planners and only 1 volunteer for Controllers at this time).
5. It was asked whether ‘there is an appetite within the club to take part in and support the delivery of a coaching weekend for adult orienteers’ – sponsored by The Orienteering Foundation – like the coaching weekend in the Lake District. **I need an answer to this question.** Simon will talk to Mark & John for interest, if they are then we can open it to members.

JK2029

****Can we use Whiteknights as the Sprint area for JK2029****

This was chewed over at length and other alternatives considered but discarded (permission would not be forthcoming/restricted numbers permitted). **I need an answer to this too.** Simon will talk to John to see if this is possible.

I did think that in 2013 we held the Sprints at Whiteknights AND had the Long at Cold Ash. I am sure you will all agree we don’t want to host both the Sprints and the Long in 2029.

.....
Clip of the SCOA meeting minutes:

Sprint

The following Sprint areas were discussed; Harwell, probably not possible, Oxford Colleges would be ideal however there is a limit on numbers of competitors and OUOC would have to be non-competitive as the live and train within the area. Whiteknights (Reading) would be good with public transport links (on Bank Holiday?), park and ride and some parking on campus - Action: FC to raise Whiteknights as a possible Sprint area with BKO Committee.

Long

Neville Baker (TVOC) is currently looking into a possible new area that would be suitable although it is earmarked for a Chiltern Challenge. PR said it would be raised at the TVOC meeting next Monday and he would report back from that.

DR said that the SN Trophy 2025 is being held on Windmill & Frith Hills. Mytchett together with Windmill & Frith would be good for a Long race as not SSSI. The question would be whether there would be sufficient parking for an event of that size.

Middle

AK has identified an area in BADO that would be good for a Middle-Distance race but needs to check with the forester - Action: AK to check with forester for possible Middle area.

JW asked whether the idea of holding the JK out of region (e.g. Wales?) has been dismissed. IM said that it has not been dismissed yet - Action: RS to raise this suggestion at the next Fixtures Meeting.

IM said that none of these possible areas have been confirmed and that Clubs should continue to consider other possible areas - Action: All Club Reps to discuss with their committee possible areas for the next SCOA meeting.

ANOTHER INTERESTING SNIPPET FROM THE SCOA MEETING:

Apparently SWOA who are scheduled to host the JK 2028 but have said they are unable to do it. We have not been asked to bring our year forward yet. It was agreed that SCOA would not be keen to host in 2028. DR said that SEOA are hosting 2027 so it would have been SE 2027, SW 2028 and the SC 2029.

5. Events & Mapping

5.1 Events

- The Committee went through the events list detailed in Appendix.
- BKO Club Championships – Black Park on Sunday the 14th December.

5.2 Mapping

- This was discussed under events. - appendix A.

5.3 Results

- Brian said that SI we have advised there are two updates awaiting.
Concorde Chase.
- We are advancing with running ourselves and in discussion with Jerry Newcombe concerning the Southern Championship results and checking eligibility.

6. Treasurers Report (Lynne)

- Lynne had sent out the report prior to the meeting. –
- No other comments.

7. Development Matters

Apols from John but he has sent through;

- I am putting together a grant proposal to Orienteering Foundation to pay for the posts, labels etc to enable the POC course in Prospect Park, Reading, to be built by Reading Borough Council. Deadline 30 Sep. **Simon gave an update that these funds may not be available for this suggestion as the money is being aimed at development officers. We will review and may put in a bid towards the end of the year.**
- Judy and Alan have been planning courses for Ashenbury and David Jukes has updated the map. I will set up the RSU page asap once course names are finalised. Probably just Short, Medium, Long since it is park/urban level D.
- I have been writing a newsletter article about JWOC and the 5 Days of Italy tour. We haven't had a newsletter for a while. Need to start communicating with members who are not on Whatsapp so that they remember BKO and orienteering.

8. Secretary's Report

- Katy has requested to be removed from the Committee email list. Action; MF
- BOF annual submission to be in by 20th October.

9. Publicity Report

- **Website** – Simon went back to Paul Frost and he is no longer doing website updates so he will not be able to update BKO's. Simon suggested that we make the website a lot simpler and take

off some of the databases. Eg membership, results, location data. Discussion took place on alternatives and a way forward. Simon will also come up with a proposal as to what the website.
Sept Update - Ongoing.

- **Facebook – Instagram**

- Instagram - Rob said that we have 92 followers and that it is growing and is linked to the Facebook page.

10. Coaching Report

- Mark sent his apologies for the meeting

11. Youth League/Juniors

- As we have no members for the Youth league this will be now Juniors going forward.

12. Welfare Report

- Sue has nothing to report and has had no contact from BOF.

13. Next Meeting –

- Thursday 20th November 0730 @ The Cricketers. Booked.
- Also pencilled in the 15th January prior to the CC

14. AOB

-
-

Appendix A – Events Table

Date	Location	Level	Comments	Officials
Sunday 26th October 2025	Autumn Local Urban Ashenbury Park	D	Permissions – Received by WBC. Parking - Use Ashenbury Park car park Mapping – David Jukes have updated map Other - Originally scheduled as Regional forest event, hence the Sunday date. Opportunity for those busy on Saturdays (kids football etc) to run a local event Clash with WAOC Regional urban event in Hertford on Sat 25th, Regional SARUM event at Warminster/Cannimore on Sun 26th.	Organiser – John Methven Planner – Alan & Judy Nesbit Controller – N/A Results - BKO Result team Brian, Derick M (setup), Peter, Steve
Saturday 22nd November 2025	Autumn local Burghfield	D	Permissions – Received from Englefield Estate on 14/7. Parking - Same open area as last time Mapping – Simon to update	Organiser – Simon Moore Planner – Glyn Thomas Controller – N/A

			Other - Originally scheduled for Bucklebury but we will hold off until forestry work at Bucklebury is completed. The event clashes with Southern Nights outside Crawley. But OK since mainly different target audience.	Results - BKO Result team (Derick M, Brian Peter E)
Sunday 14th December 2025	Autumn Regional (SCOL01) Black Park	C	<p>Permissions – Positive response from Head Ranger. Some forestry work planned with unclear impact of OOB areas.</p> <p>Parking - Use of Black Park car park</p> <p>Mapping – Andrew Charmers?</p> <p>Other - Originally scheduled for Star Posts but that area is now allocated to CC 2026.</p> <p>TVOC plan to have their club champs at this event (source Roger Thetford). TVOC asked if we could put on VSG course? BKO club championship?</p>	<p>Organiser – Fiona Clough</p> <p>Planner – Andrew Southwood</p> <p>Controller – Roger Thetford (TVOC)</p> <p>Results - BKO Result team (Mark F, Derick, Steve W, Simon M volunteered to learn)</p>
Saturday 24th January 2026	Concorde Chase Urban Woollahill	C	<p>Permissions – WBC approved of event and assembly at field off Rushkin Way (but not parking)</p> <p>Parking - WBS rejected parking at Field off Rushkin Way due to risk at being wet. WBC confirmed we can use in summer though. Mark exploring other car parks.</p> <p>Mapping – Suggestion from Martin Wilson (Planner). Extend existing Woollahill map by mapping Fox Hill woodland. Also enables length requirements for Regional Urban courses.</p> <p>Other -</p>	<p>Organiser – Mark Foxwell</p> <p>Planner – Martin Wilson</p> <p>Controller – Neville Baker (TVOC)</p> <p>Results - BKO Result team currently Brian, Derick, Peter</p>
Sunday 25th January 2026	Concorde Chase Star Posts Southern & SCOA Championship	B	<p>Permissions – Permission request has been submitted to Landmarc on March 18th. Landmarc got back 10/6 informing our date was rejected due to 'higher priority' bid.</p> <p>24/6 Crown Estate confirmed to use Star Posts instead.</p> <p>24/6 SWT confirmed use of Poors Allotment</p> <p>Parking - Usual hard standing parking areas. Trophy Collection and issue Bo volunteered.</p> <p>Mapping – Map partly updated for Southern Nights 2024 by Simon Moore. Simon to do further updates.</p> <p>Other - Result by BKO team? How to handle championship classes and results on the day?</p>	<p>Organiser – Simon Moore</p> <p>Planner – Craig Blackford (BADO) with assistance from Trish Monks and Jon Vaughan.</p> <p>Controller – Paul Fox (SN)</p> <p>Results - BKO Results team?</p>

Saturday 21st March 2026	Spring Local Swinley East	D	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other - Event # 87414. Day before TVOC Chiltern Challenge	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Results -
Sunday 12th April 2026	Spring Re- gional Rushall Woods	C	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other - 86966	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Results -
Saturday 20th June 2026	Summer series urban #1 & Club Picnic Sandhurst me- morial park	D	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other - Event # 87419. Tie in with Parkrun that starts 0900?	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Results -
Saturday 18th July 2026	Summer series urban #2 Local or Re- gional Lower Earley	D	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – David Jukes plan to start mapping Arborfield Green estate (SW of Wokingham) during autumn 2025. Planned to be used for CC Urban 2027. But could possibly to be used for Re- gional Urban event summer 2026. Other - Event # 87421.	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Results -
Saturday 19th Septem- ber 2026	Autumn local event Yateley Com- mon Coutry Park	D	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other - Event # 87426	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Results -
Sunday 25th October 2026	Autumn Re- gional Bucklebury	C	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other - Event # 87427. Possibility for night event if area is too restricted after forestry work.	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Results -
Saturday 30th January 2027	Concorde Chase Urban Arborfield Green?	C	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – David Jukes plan to start mapping Arborfield Green estate (SW of Wokingham) during autumn 2025. Possibly to be used for Regional Urban event summer 2026. Other - Event # 87428	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Results -
Sunday 31st January 2027	Concorde Chase Hawley	B	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Roger Maher is the mapper for Hawley. BKO and BAOC to split cost for updates.	Organiser – Planner – Controller –

			Other -	Results -
Saturday 29th January 2028	Concorde Chase Urban	B	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other -	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Results -
Sunday 30th January 2028	Concorde Chase Barossa	B	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other -	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Results -