



Berkshire Orienteers

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

7.30pm 9th Jan 25
The Cricketers, Cricketers Lane.
Warfield. RG42 6JT

Present: Simon Moore (Chair), Brian Sewell, Derick Mercer, Peter Entwistle, Bo Oqvist, Lynne Moore (Treasurer), Ian Hudson, Fiona Clough, Steve Waite, John Methven.

Apologies: Mark Foxwell.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting (21st Nov '24)

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.*

Action; MF Ongoing

- Brian – Do we want a portable power pack (5kg) rather than the 20kg we currently have. It was agreed to put it in the budget for next year Brian will obtain quotes. Update Nov – Brian said that he has looked at power packs with the most logical being one at a cost of £528, he will forward the details to the Committee for comparisons and approval. *Update Jan – Purchased for £280.*

Action; Complete

- Mark will talk to Trish about whatsapp improvements for interaction between Club members at events. *Update Jan – Mark sent his apologise for the meeting.*

Action; MF

2. Chairman's Update

2.1 Chair's Update.

- Southern Nights – **Get from Simon.**
- AGM – Bo, the room is booked and will be a carvery with dessert. Derick will email out to members once Lynne sends me payment details.
- AGM – The Club will pay for the room, members to pay for their food.
- AGM – Membership fees, the Treasurer suggested that the fees for 2026 be increased to £16 for family, £8 for Adults £5 Young Adults £1 for Children. The Committee agreed to put this forward to the AGM.
- AGM – The prizes were discussed with nominated winners.
- AGM – Steve said that he will not be standing for the Committee next year. Simon thanked him for his time on the Committee.

3. Membership Secretary

- Ian gave the update that we currently have, National 83 (114) members – 4 local – no group members.

4. SCOA Report –

- Fiona – No meeting since the last Committee.

5. Events & Mapping

5.1 Events

- Bo has sent out an email to the Committee regarding the difficulty in obtaining Organisers for events. Two proposals from the email because the current situation is not sustainable.
 1. One event each from the Committee.
 2. Reducing our events to one a quarter.These were discussed.
- Simon gave an update on the Concorde Chase weekend and we still need volunteers, especially for control setting and collection.
- The events schedule was discussed, the updated table is appendix A.

5.2 Mapping

- This was discussed under events. - appendix A.

5.3 Results

- Brian asked if the Computer Simon holds has the latest licence. Brian will collect and update.

6. Treasurers Report (Lynne)

- Lynne had sent out the report prior to the meeting;
- Brian said that apart from the new laptop the older ones under (Windows 11) will not be supported, plan needed in place for future purchases.
- Brian said we need to purchase another 10 SIACS to be put into the budget.

Events

- Just one event has taken place since our last meeting – The Southern Night Champs at Star Posts on 28/12/24. Despite being postponed for 3 weeks requiring a map reprint, the event made a surplus of over £700 which was better than expected. The surplus was mostly to do with the high number of entrants and the low fee to use the Lookout toilets.
- There were a number of competitors who could not make the rearranged date for the event. A few were refunded and the majority received credits in RaceSignUp. We expect most credits to be used for Concorde Chase entries. This has been reflected in our accounts by carrying forward credit income from Southern Nights to 2025.

Budget outturn 2024

- See accompanying report. Our initial budget for 2024 was for a deficit in the region of -£1,400. However, owing to good surpluses on the majority of events, we have made a small surplus over the year of just over £1,000. We have tended to charge slightly higher entry fees for events which has helped. Our entry fees are in line with the fees that other clubs charge.
- Please see accompanying Statement of Income & Expenditure and Balance Sheet which has been prepared for the auditor. Overall, a successful year from a financial perspective and accounts are in a healthy position.

Club Kit

- A number of club members have purchased new BKO O-kit thanks to Trish coordinating and placing the order. The kit was not subsidised by the club.

Budget setting 2025

- Budget setting is underway and will be ready for the AGM. I will circulate it beforehand to the committee for your review and recommendations by email.

7. Development Matters

- The BOF FindYourWay national project finished at the beginning of September. BKO was part of it for a year.

- The last action for BKO was to create two Maprun courses on the University of Reading campus (a long and short course).
- JM planned the courses and Mark put them on Maprun server.
- These were advertised to all new students at Reading via the Students' Union website. Also JM and two new BKO members (Brian Lo and Niamh O'Callaghan) ran a BKO stand on the community day of freshers fayre and spoke with several hundred interested students and staff. However, it seems that very few people actually have done the Maprun courses since, illustrating the typical energy barrier associated with doing virtual courses (unless you are already into orienteering).
- Nevertheless, the courses are there and JM will engage with student clubs and staff to offer orienteering taster sessions (probably using kites) and also introduce the Maprun courses. One of the BOF team (Howard Blackman) explained urban orienteering to a presenter from BBC Radio 4 using the Maprun course on campus.
- Our other main FYW activity was to run an orienteering taster session on Prospect Park, Reading, and then also to create Maprun courses for it and for Reading West Score (working with Beat the Streets). Mark and John updated the Prospect Park map and planned courses and Mark uploaded them all on the Maprun server under FYW -> Berkshire. Reading Borough Council advertised them on their website. Again unfortunately the uptake has been low. JM also planned a POC course for the park and Reading BC were keen to implement it but had no funding to do it. However, Kay Hawke (BOF Partnerships) contacted JM in December and suggested that the Orienteering Foundation is likely to fund the posts. RBC is keen and so JM will apply for the funding and hopefully the new POC course will be installed and run from the ranger station next to the café in the park.
- An added benefit of FYW has been visibility for BKO Maprun courses via the national website and also to update the BKO website for Maprun and POCs that are still active in the BKO area. We have also received useful infographics from BOF that help explain what orienteering is about to beginners and how to get started.

8. Secretary's Report

- Nothing to Report.

9. Publicity Report

- **Website** – Simon is going talk to Paul Frost ref the new website. Ian asked Simon to ask the regular Committee users for the content.
- **Facebook** –

10. Coaching Report

- Mark had apologised as he could not attend the meeting but emailed to say he will shortly be putting out a request for Planners for the summer training events.
- John said that he has completed his level 2 coaching.

11. Youth League/Juniors

Update from John;

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12. Welfare Report

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

13. Next Meeting –

- Thursday 20th March 0730 @ The Cricketers.

14. AOB

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Appendix A – Events Table

Date	Location	Level	Comments	Officials
Saturday 25th January 2025	Concorde Chase Urban Wildridings & Great Hollands	C	Permissions – Bracknell Forest and Bracknell Town Council contacted Parking - Lynne has obtained initial permission to park at Fujitsu Mapping – Other -	Organiser – Lynne Moore Planner - Simon Moore Controller – Pete Jones (SN) Results - BKO + BOK (John Simmons confirmed)
Sunday 26th January 2025	Concorde Chase & SCOA Championship Cold Ash	B	Permissions – All landowners contacted. Westrop Woods, Bucklebury estate and Marlston Estate (Gravelly Pighties) have said yes. Eling Estate approved as well. Neil Wilkinson land sold? Looking for new landowner, but land will not be used for CC 2025 anyway. Parking - Assembly at same field as used for British Champs is the plan. Confirmed with farmer (Richard Goodman) by Fiona. Mapping –	Organiser – Fiona & Jane Courtier Planner – Richard Rae (BKO) Controller – Terry Smith Results - BKO + BOK (John Simmons confirmed)
Saturday 22nd February 2025 (cancelled)	Winter local Bramshill	D	Permissions – Retry with Forestry England. Permission denied for April 2024. Email including application form submitted 29th Oct. Initial answer from FE is no because there are no resources to manage our application and Barmshill is leased. FE suggested we picked a different forest and applied for permission. Event cancelled Parking - Mapping – Other - Need rescheduling. 22 Feb is day before CSC qualifier. Possible alternatives are 8th Feb (clash with SAX at Sevenoaks) or 22nd Mar (Clash with TVOC at Botley/W Oxford).	Organiser – Planner – Rob Mullens Controller – N/A Results -
Saturday 8th March 2025	Langley Park	D	Permissions – Positive initial response from Head Ranger. Event plan, routes and RA required. Parking - Langley Park car park Mapping –	Organiser – Planner – Jim Munday Controller – N/A

			Other - 1/3 clash with TVOC High Wycombe. 8/3 clash with SN Alice Holt, 22/3 Clash with TVOC at Botley/W Oxford	Results -
Sunday 13th April 2025	Spring Regional Bloom Wood	C	Permissions – OK by phone with Jamie 10/4-24. Also Lord Carington may have additional land we can use for future events. In return for mapping the area. Parking - Mapping – Other -Week after TVOC Chiltern, week before JK 2025	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Mark Thomson TVOC Results -
Saturday 10th May 2025	Spring local event Greenham Common (BADO) or Yateley Common	D	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other - Intentional clash with British Champs in Lakes District	Organiser – Planner – Rob Mullens has volunteered. Trish and Jon too. Controller – N/A Results -
Sunday 22nd June 2025	Summer series urban #1 Regional Birch Hill & South Hill Park	C	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other -	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Results -
Saturday 19th July 2025	Summer series urban #2 & Club Picnic Jennetts Park	D	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other -	Organiser – Planner – Alan Philips. Reuse of 2024 courses Controller – N/A Results -
Saturday 20th September 2025	Autumn local event Wokefield	D	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other -	Organiser – Rob Mullens volunteered Planner – Controller – N/A Results -
Sunday 26th October 2025	Autumn Regional Pamber Forest or Snelsmore together with BADO? Or Black Park	C	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other -	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Results -
Saturday 22nd November 2025	Autumn local Bucklebury	D	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other -	Organiser – Planner – Controller – N/A Results -
Sunday 14th December 2025	Autumn Regional or night event Swinley West (Night) or Yateley Heath (regional)	C	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other -	Organiser – Planner – Trish & Jon volunteered Controller – Results -

Saturday 24th January 2026	Concorde Chase Urban Woosehill	C	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other -	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Neville Baker (TVOC) Results -
Sunday 25th January 2026	Concorde Chase & Southern Champi- onship Hawley	B	Permissions – Permission request to be sent to Landmarc between 6-12 months prior to event Parking - Mapping – Other -	Organiser – Planner – Craig Black- ford (BADO) with as- sistance from Trish Monks and Jon Vaughan. Controller – Paul Fox (SN) Results -
Saturday 30th January 2027	Concorde Chase Urban	B	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other -	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Results -
Sunday 31st January 2027	Concorde Chase Star Post	B	Permissions – Parking - Mapping – Other -	Organiser – Planner – Controller – Results -