

Minutes of the DVO Open Meeting held at The Family Tree, Whatstandwell, 8pm, January 10th 2018

Present: Stuart Swalwell, Tony Berwick, Andy Hawkins, Jane Burgess, Anne Cunningham, Mike and Liz Godfree, Ann-Marie Duckworth, Val and Graham Johnson, Tony Stirland, Mike Gardner, Jon Cundill, Sal Chaffey

1 New club members (AH)

Andy opened the meeting, showing the Your First Event booklet, of which there are printed copies. This, and Your Second Event, are available on the DVO website under the Newcomers tab.

We are going to try a different approach to new members as regards putting them in help teams, as this may be putting some people off. Andy is going to contact each new member to see if they are new to orienteering or new to the area. If the latter, they can be given a team, but if new to orienteering, this should be delayed. (At present, all members are in a team, apart from Juniors, those living outside the area, and those 'not available' to help.)

Buddying was discussed, and it was felt at this time that it was difficult to implement as the buddies would need to miss their run. Tony Stirland mentioned that when he took up orienteering and joined AIRE he was assigned a buddy and found this helpful, for instance recommending which colour coded course to enter, as not all terrain has the same degree of challenge.

2 New name for South Derbyshire Series (AH)

Suggestions were invited as this name not as snappy as the others.

3 Skills training (JB)

Following Anne's questionnaire at Ilam, the unicyclists requested some skills training, and we have been discussing offering this at Level D events for some time. Val stated that pacing, aiming off etc were too advanced and that we should start with folding, thumbing and orientating the map. She mentioned Yvette Hague's talk at Lakeside in which she analysed one leg of a gold-medal-winning run and found she'd used approx. 20 different skills.

It was agreed that generally we treat Level Ds as competitions, when actually we should see them as opportunities to practise new skills, and improve old ones, targeting just a few events in which to race. When we had to copy the course from master maps, in race time, it nevertheless gave time to absorb a lot of information.

Val will deliver the '**Car to Start**' workshop, probably at the April Open Meeting. This is aimed at club members who want to help newcomers, and includes things like simplifying the legend (or key), so that the person can quickly get out on a course.

The issue of land access means that training is generally bolted on to events. Level Ds are the ideal events to offer training, as club members are not away helping. The following wording was proposed for inserting into event details:

"Training in orienteering skills will be available, 12:30-1pm." (or 30 mins before Registration opens)

Coaches and/or Planners to decide which skill/s are appropriate to be covered at each Level D event, and give advance notice in the flier if possible.

4 Open Meetings (JB)

It was felt that Open Meetings are not well-attended, and there is the problem of them clashing with the Wednesday run as Matlock O Club activities. A poll with questions about preferred day and venue for Open Meetings could be sent to all members by John Hawkins. The consensus of those present was that Tuesday or Thursday would be a better night.

Any other business

1 Graham asked about the decision taken at an Open Meeting so as to not disadvantage those not using SIAC dibbers. This was over-ruled at Committee, following consultation with British Orienteering who stated that if mixed-mode punching is used, SIAC dibbers must be available to hire.

Two issues raised here:

- (a) SIAC v non-SIAC dibbers. It is widely acknowledged that these give an advantage, but so does a faster-settling compass. Stuart calculated that using SIAC gave an advantage of 1 min 12 seconds at Buxton. Moreover, SIAC users can hinder non-SIAC users as they can queue-jump at controls with their proximity registration, while non-SIAC are waiting to punch. Mike Gardner at Buxton had his non-SIAC dibber knocked away at Control 4, and thought he had dibbed but actually heard the noise from a SIAC dibber. He was disqualified as a result.

Mike Godfree stated that, at the Fixtures Meeting the previous evening, we had discussed the difficulty of non-SIAC punching at Urbans, where the **gripple** goes through the hole in the SI box. He is going to look at the wooden 'enclosures' for SI boxes used by LOG, or metal plates behind the box. With these, it is the enclosure that's gripped, not the SI box. This should make punching with non-SIAC easier and perhaps quicker.

- (b) There is also the wider issue of a decision at an Open Meeting being over-ruled by Committee. If this happens, it should be more actively communicated to the membership, not just buried in the Minutes. Should Committee minutes be read (or be available to read?) at Open Meetings?

2 CompassSport Cup heat

We are 'likely' to get our first choice of Canklow, and this will be confirmed on January 15th. The Short Green Vets class is going to be split soon, so that, for instance, W70s aren't running against M60s.

3 John Hawkins and John Cooke to work together to remove access to the 'Members area' of the DVO website for lapsed members.

The meeting closed at 9:55pm.