

Minutes of the Annual Club Delegate Conference
Tuesday 11th January 2005,
At 42 Birkdene, Stocksfield.

Present:

Patrick Smyth (BAOC) (Chairman) Colin Matheson (NATO) (Events Co-ordinator)
Peter Firth (NATO) (Treasurer) Linda Thornton (CLOK) (NEJS Co-ordinator)
Andrew Nicoll (NATO) (SI Manager) Rob McKenna (NN)
Sheila Sprot (NATO) Mike Hardy (CLOK)
Alastair Mackenzie (CLOK) Heather Monro (Regional Development Officer)
Robin Field (BOF)

Item Action:

- 1 Apologies for Absence: None
- 2 Chairman's Introduction

Chairman's report attached. The chairman highlighted three items:

- a) BOC2004. Had brought much praise to the region and the hard work put into the event. There was a net profit of £800 the use of which had to be considered.
- b) Development Officer. The appointment of Heather Munro as RDO had led to much discussion within the Region that needed to be continued.
- c) NEJS. The Squad had enjoyed a renaissance in the last year and hopefully this would continue with a full programme for 2005.

3 Ratification of Officials

The meeting agreed to the appointment of the following:-

Chairman/Secretary:- Patrick Smyth

Treasurer Peter Firth

Events Co-ordinator Colin Matheson

SI Equipment Manager Andrew Nicoll

The post of Coaching Co-ordinator would be split between Linda Thornton, who had agreed to act as NEJS Co-ordinator and would look after all aspects of the NEJS, and Patrick Smyth who would continue to look after the other aspects of the post.

It was pointed out that following the restructure of BOF committees etc some of the names used within the Region were once again outdated. The Chairman agreed to look at amending |Chairman these.

Colin and Linda would act as the Regional Representatives to Fixtures and Coaching Committees (whatever their BOF names!). Chairman/A McK

Alastair volunteered to help with some of the committees.

The Chairman undertook to continue to seek new members for the Chairman/Clubs committee including approaching the Club newsletter editors to produce an article.

4 Development

a) Report & Background

Heather Munro had produced a report for the meeting on her activities. Robin Field led a discussion on the background to the appointment.

b) Future

The discussion continued into the future role and club activities. It was agreed that there should be a Regional Development Plan. Clubs agreed to forward to the Chairman their "needs" of the Region. The consolidated plan would then be given wider visibility.

Junior Squad

5 After some discussion on the terms of membership, it was felt that the right to restrict eligibility to events was covered by the content of the paragraphs on "Management". Two minor changes were made to the English but the constitution was approved. A copy of the new constitution is attached.

Linda presented a proposed activity list for 2005, which is attached. It was observed that ideally a separate administrator Linda Thornton be found to co-ordinate the proposed Norwegian exchange.

It was also observed that as the programme expanded consideration was needed to improving the fund raising activities/fund wealth.

The following budget was agreed (based on Club Grants at the same level/basis as last year):

Expenditure £Budget

February Training Day 50.00

April & November Training Weekends 600.00
JIRC 300.00
Lakeside Weekend 100.00
Support to Tours 250.00
Total 1300.00

Income £
Club Grants Levies 575.00
Fund Raising 500.00
Grants 200.00
Total 1275.00

It was noted that although this produced a deficit, fund raising in 2004 had produced over £900. It was agreed that the surplus should be built up to support the intention to organise events such as the planned Norwegian exchange on a more regular basis and also that £650 of the current balance was earmarked for the purchase of squad O Tops.

The current balance of the NEJS General Fund (at 31/12/04) was £1333.37.

6 Fixtures:

Colin Matheson outlined the current process for agreeing fixtures.

b) Future Event

Agreed that the Region should continue to run Classic, Night and Score Championships. However the fixtures reps should try to ensure the viability of the events. C Matheson

The chairman agreed to investigate with clubs a mechanism for providing prizes for juniors and recognition for others at the Clubs 4 major NE events (the three mentioned plus the October Odyssey). Chairman

It was agreed that the Regional round of the Yvette Baker Trophy should be held at the NATO event at Dipton on September 18th.

The current problems were outlined including the lack of "help" from event organisers. It was agreed that the North East O League should continue. The Chairman agreed to approach a "volunteer". It was agreed that the Chairman set the rules for a re-vamped league. Chairman

Concern was also expressed that events staged as "northern" events were being held too far south (e.g. CSC).

7 SI Equipment

The Manager reported on a year of no equipment problems. Two dibbers had been lost; a couple of boxes had been repaired under guarantee. An additional number of boxes had been bought to bring the total held to 80. A Nicoll/Clubs

The income had allowed the expected surplus of £1500 to be met the actual surplus being £1858.81 and the meeting agreed there was no need to change the current charges

Expenditure £
Equipment Maintenance 185.94
Insurance 152.00
Total 337.94

Income £
Equipment Hire 1835.25
Dibber Hire 341.50
Lost Dibber Payment 20.00
Total 2196.75

The current balance of the SI Equipment Fund is £2342.97. The lack of dibbers was noted and it was agreed that more should be purchased - ideally 22 (to raise the total to 60) but the need to retain a coherent series was noted. |A Nicoll

8 Finance

The Treasurer presented the accounts and also the auditors report. There were several comments from the auditor mostly concerned with documentation. The Treasurer said these would be put right by him. Treasurer

The expenditure against budget for 2004 is reproduced below:-

Expenditure	£Budget	£Actual
Courses/Conferences	50.00	
Development	50.00	
Information Line/Website	200.00	154.26
NEOA & BOF Committees	100.00	66.50
E O C Fees	220.00	193.00
Administration	50.00	10.59
Contingency	18.00	
Total	688.00	

Income	£
Club Levies	678.00 678.00
Bank Interest	10.00 15.11
Total	688.00 693.11

The current balance of the NEOA General Fund (at 31/12/04) was £1000.45.

Questions were raised against two items. The value of the Chairman Information line was questioned especially in the light of the use of the internet. The Chairman undertook to investigate |Chairman this during 2005. The EOC fees were expected to rise to £300 but still had not been amended since the amendment to NEOA.

The Chairman undertook to pursue this.

The Treasurer had not produced a specific budget for 2005 as it was felt that the 2004 budget was still a reasonable one based on current proposals. This was agreed. Following discussions on the use of the BOC profit (see next item) the levy of £3 per senior member and £6 per family was agreed. Clubs This equated to the following club contributions: - CLOK £315, NATO £273 and NN £75.

9 BOC Profit

Following discussions on the various items it was agreed to spend the £819.16 as follows:-

- 1) Purchase a set of new dibbers as noted above (see Item 7)
- 2) To use the money to enhance the October Odyssey (by purchase of prizes etc)
- 3) To put the balance to subsidise juniors purchasing NEJS O Tops. Treasurer

Various ideas for enhancing the OO were suggested Agreed the chairman would canvass ideas and liaise with NN.

10 Any Other Business
None

Chairman/Secretary's Report for 2004

Two events stand out from 2004; both probably from a personal involvement yet both of importance to NEOA itself.

Firstly BOC2004. After overcoming all the previous problems, all seem set fair for a great weekend! Who says the sun shines on the righteous? Still thanks to the efforts of all the helpers and the understanding of most competitors BOC itself produced an enormous volume of praise for the region. We still have some profit to spend (and I also still have two badge events almost planned - despite using one at the October Odyssey). The down side of the event is the major impact it had on fixtures in the region post March. The staging of a major event in our small region can not be undertaken without reducing the number/level of events around it. This fact coupled with a general show of indifference led to the decision not to accept an offer to host JK2007.

Secondly the appointment of a Regional Development Officer. The decision to appoint one and then the selection

process has forced clubs and the Region to consider how we want to develop the sport. I am sure Heather will prove of great value to the Region; also the full benefit of BOF (Sport England) funding for Schools Development will be felt at a regional level. However there is much work to be done by Clubs to align their own development activities

Additionally it is a pleasure to report on the "rebirth" of the Northeast Junior Squad. Thanks to Karen and Linda for their efforts here and best wishes for the future. I must mention the thanks from the Irish Squad who moved out of last place at the JIRC for the first time in x years due to NEJS participation in the individual day! No doubt this year a full NEJS team will put them back in last place!


Finally (in what is a perennial plea) NEOA itself needs new blood to fill the executive posts. Over half the posts are vacant and I am finding that the additional work means far too much does not get done and what does is late. A "Catch 22" position as I can not find the time to pursue people to volunteer!

Report to NEOA Club Delegate Conference
Tuesday January 11th, 2005

Heather Monro
BOF Regional Development Officer (NE)

1 RDO Role

The appointment of Regional Development Officers in all of the BOF English regions has come about due to increased funding as part of the government's PE School Sport Club Links (PESSCL) initiative. This extra funding is government money, not lottery money, distributed to BOF through Sport England. In order to receive this funding BOF has had to submit a PESSCL plan to Sport England, which includes annual targets for increasing the number of accredited (Clubmark) clubs, links between clubs and schools, junior participation in club activities and BSOA membership. I have been appointed to work 400 hours a year (equivalent to one day a week) in the North East region and the main focus of my work is towards achieving these PESSCL targets. If you are interested in seeing the BOF PESSCL plan, I can supply you with a copy.

My contract states that  the Regional Development Officer will work closely with the Regional Association, orienteering clubs, schools, Sports Councils, other BOF employees (including the BOF Marketing Manager) and volunteers. My line manager is the BOF development manager (Peter Bylett), who in turn reports to the BOF Chief Executive (Robin Field). I am required to submit 6-monthly reports of my work to BOF and I am happy to forward these to anyone in the region who might be interested.

2 Orienteering Development in the North East

I have been in post since 1st July and spent the first few months trying to make contact with key people in the clubs and the region and getting an overview of the level of activity and development needs. I have made good contact with the 3 open clubs in the region, but have so far had little interaction with the university clubs. Each of the 3 open clubs has its own character and all 3 have chosen quite different priorities and approaches to development work. This certainly makes my work varied and interesting and can be seen as a resource; the region as a whole has a broad spectrum of experience and expertise. With this variety in development activity and the geographical spread in the region I hope that having a 'central' (both figuratively and geographically speaking) development officer will be seen as an opportunity to share experience and coordinate efforts.

REPORT July 1st-December 31st 2004

A brief summary of what I have been doing since July 1st :

2.1 DEVELOPING SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING

Responded to enquiries from following schools;
Heaton Manor School, Newcastle
All Saints College, Newcastle
West Sleekburn Middle School, Bedlington

Met with Partnership Development Manager for Gateshead/Whickham School Sport Co-ordinator Programme

2.2 SCHOOL — CLUB LINKS

Advised CLOK and attended meeting re formalising school — club link with Laurence Jackson Sports College, Guisborough

2.3 CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Meeting with CLOK development team re programmes which encourage young people to take part in orienteering out of school.

Advised CLOK re application for Community Sports Coach funding.

2 meetings with John Crosby re NATO development

Attended 2 NATO committee meetings, support in working towards clubmark.

Meeting with NN committee re NN development

Arranged for BOF publicity material to be sent to the club.

2.4 DEVELOPING JUNIOR ORIENTEERING

Supported NEJS manager concerning kit, funding, finding coaches, possible Norwegian exchange.

2.4.1 PROMOTING EQUITY IN PARTICIPATION

Assisted NATO with plans for Rising Sun Permanent multi-purpose course and application for BOF equity funds

2.5 OTHER

Attended meeting of BOF development team

Attended BOF level 1 coaching course

Attended and spoke at World Cup 2005 Development Conference

Attended and spoke at Northern Sports Development Officers Association conference

Met with Pat Smyth re NE development situation

Provided organisers of Corporate Decathlon event in Newcastle with contact details of clubs

Wrote articles for Tchimes and TWT

2.6 PLANS FOR 2005

Ongoing projects / priorities include;

Supporting NATO in its work towards achieving Clubmark status (including development of schools and junior activities).

Supporting the CLOK development team in working towards strengthening its links with local schools and attracting the

schools participants to club based activities.

Agreeing priorities / how I can support NN.

One area that I would like to see progressing is;

A more coordinated approach to a programme of activities for schools and newcomers tying in with the existing extensive programme of local activities in the NATO / NN areas.

Whilst it would be most advantageous to be able to take a more pro-active approach with schools, the reality of the

situation is that so far I have only had time to react to the incoming schools enquiries. The North East does not have the

numbers or the resources that some of the other English regions can boast and it is my opinion that we should focus our

development efforts in particular areas rather than spreading ourselves thinly. This applies not just to schools but also to

all areas of development work. I intend to continue to work with the clubs to develop priorities and plans for further

development work. In particular, I would encourage clubs to concentrate their efforts on the schools (and youth groups

etc) who show a real interest and commitment.

On a positive note, we are not far off having 2 of our 3 clubs accredited and given that there is currently only 1 other club

in the country with this status, the region has reason to be proud of the work it is doing!

Heather Monro

30-12-04