

Minutes of the Annual Club Delegate Conference
Tuesday 25th November 2003,
at 42 Birkdene, Stocksfield.

Present:

Patrick Smyth (BAOC) (Chairman)
Colin Matheson (NATO) (Events Co-ordinator)
Peter Firth (NATO) (Treasurer)
Karen Heppenstall (CLOK) (Coaching Co-ordinator)
Andrew Nicol (NATO) (SI Manager)
Rob McKenna (NN)
Don Smith (NN)
Mike Rickard (CLOK)
Alastair Mackenzie (CLOK)

Item Action:

- 1 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from John Crosby.
- 2 Chairman's Introduction
The Chairman thanked everyone for coming. The agenda was something of a guess as this was the first Club Delegate Conference. The aim of the meeting was to discuss and decide NEOA policy for the coming year. To set a budget to cover those activities and to ratify the officers and co-ordinators of the Association.
- 3 Development
BOF's 5-year strategic plan for Jan 2004 - Dec 2008 focuses on a major proposal that each Regional Association should employ a Regional Development Officer (RDO) to spend 2 days per week "working proactively in the region to look at all aspects of club and schools development".

This formed the basis of a discussion on Development within NEOA. The chairman would represent them to Mike Hardy who was attending the conference. Chairman

It was agreed that the needs of the region differed to other regions and indeed from Club to Club. Each would have their own priorities. The primary aim of the region was to attract more potential "volunteers".

There was concern that the funding of such an official would not be possible if NEOA and its club had to bear the cost. It was felt that the funding should be met by BOF through an increased levy on all clubs.

It was felt any RDO should respond to regional needs and not BOF initiatives or priorities. The RDO should help local clubs to deliver (i.e. reduce the volunteer time rather than attending meetings or acting as a "think tank").

It was also felt that work with schools could only produce a long term benefit and that there was no "magic button" to deliver more junior orienteers to mainline events.

- 4 Technical
The NEOA has a long-standing vacancy for the post of Technical Representative. Chairman asked clubs to push this vacancy. Clubs

Duties are:

Updating register of qualified officials
Organising training courses
Filling gaps in event officials
Responding to technical questions from clubs and individuals

Chairman said he would continue to fill the gap as time permitted!!

Various issues were discussed. It was felt that a long enough period had passed now for teething problems with new technology to be inexcusable. The chairman said he would no longer defend guilty parties; more warning of problems should be given to NEOA and other clubs as the success of an event was of interest to all and we should co-operate/promulgate best practice to ensure good events were staged.

It was felt there was more BOF could do to promote the use of
Chairman
new technology rather than let clubs/individuals be the innovators (e.g. arrange for the calculation of badge times to be automated within SI software.)

5 SI Equipment

The last NEOA conference agreed a temporary charge for the hire of the SI equipment until a more reasoned cost basis could be established. The treasurer circulated figures for 2003 and discussion took place.

It was agreed that the equipment pool should be maintained by NEOA and a fund created to ensure its replacement. (Note the previous meeting agreed a period of 5 years for depreciation).

It was agreed that there was no need to buy any more "dibbers" but the current number of forest controls (52) was insufficient. It was felt that NEOA should aim to purchase a further 16 during 2004. (This was more cost effective than

Chairman/SI

hiring extra for events). The Chairman and Treasurer agreed / to look at the possibility of NEOA funding ½ with the cost Treasurer being found by the profit from BOC or from the clubs. Manager
It was agreed that AMacK would produce a spreadsheet showing A MacK the costs & possible charges. Chairman

The Chairman would circulate a proposal for the charges for 2004 around the clubs for agreement.

6 Fixtures

Various major events were on the horizon. BOC2004. BSOC 2005. VHI 2005. Also two National events (CLOK 2004 and NATO 2005). The need for clubs to identify problems early and ask Clubs for help was noted.

It was agreed that there needed to be more co-ordination with
CLOK /Fixtures

YHOA to avoid clashes with CLOK C4 events.
Coordinator

Clubs

It was agreed there should be more promotion of the Galloppen

by clubs.

R McK

It was also agreed that the name be changed to "North East O League".

Chairman/

Concern was expressed that when neighbouring regions were

Fixtures

staging events for the "north" consideration was not being

Coordinator

given to visitors (e.g. CSC in South Yorkshire or Merseyside both over a three hour drive from Tyneside).

7 Junior Squad

KH laid out an ambitious programme for 2004, including a trip to the O-Ringen in Gothenburg, Sweden. The program needed continued support from other adults and parents. KH thanked Clubs those who had helped her this year.

Clubs

The following contributions to the Junior Squad for 2004 were agreed:

CLOK £250

NATO £250

NN £75

8 Budget & Club Levy

The following budget was agreed:

Expenditure £

Courses/Conferences 50.00

Development 50.00

Information Line/Website 200.00

NEOA & BOF Committees 100.00

English Orienteering Association Fees 220.00

Administration 50.00

Contingency 18.00

Total 688.00

Income £

Club Levies 678.00

Bank Interest 10.00

Total 688.00

The levy of £3 per senior member and £6 per family was agreed. This equated to the following club contributions:- CLOK £327, NATO £276 and NN £75.

Clubs

9 Officials

The meeting expressed its thanks to all the officers and co-ordinators for their contributions in the past year.

All officers and co-ordinators were ratified for 2004.

10 Any Other Business

In response to a question from A McK about the BRC the chairman explained the position.

Permission for Glitteringstones (the original area) was withdrawn when the tenant discovered the numbers attending. The second choice (Dukeshouse) presented problems firstly with car parking and once this was solved with road crossing from the only possible assembly area. This problem had proved

insoluble. On the third area (the same as is being used for BOC) it proved impossible to find a car park other than that use for BOC. The land around the BOC assembly area was not at the standard required for BRC. Even if a new location was found the planner did not think it possible to plan the BRC in the two months available (having planned the event twice already and drafted an idea on the third area!). The Co-ordinator did not have the time to find an alternative location. Consequently the decision had been made to cancel the event.