

Minutes of the Annual Club Delegate Conference
Tuesday 15th November 2005,
At Durham University Sports Centre – Maiden Castle Durham.

Present:

Patrick Smyth (BAOC) (Chairman)
Peter Firth (NATO) (Treasurer)
Linda Thornton (CLOK) (NEJS Co-ordinator)
Andrew Nicoll (NATO) (SI Manager)
John Crosby (NATO Club Rep & Hon President)
Heather Munro (Regional Development Officer)
Mike Hardy (CLOK Rep)
Rob McKenna (NN Club Rep)
Duncan Archer (CLOK)
Margaret Crosby (NATO)
Andy Clarke (NATO)
Chris Wright (CLOK)
Ro and Colin Matheson (NATO)
Boris Spence (NN)

Item Action:

1 Apologies for Absence
 Marion and Peter Archer, Paul Taylor

2 Chairman's Introduction

Report attached. The Chairman stressed the grass roots successes in the Region and the need for an effective NEOA Committee to encourage the three clubs to continue to work together to avoid duplication of effort and maximise volunteers' time.

The award of the Chairman's Trophy was made to Linda Thornton for the enthusiasm she had shown as NEJS co-ordinator over the past two years.

3 Ratification of Officers Co-ordinators and Representatives

The meeting agreed to the appointment of the following:-

Officers

Chairman:- Patrick Smyth (BAOC)
Treasurer Peter Firth (NATO)

Co-ordinators

Events Co-ordinator Duncan Archer (CLOK)
Standards Co-ordinator Paul Taylor (CLOK)
SI Equipment Manager Andrew Nicoll (NATO)
Coaching Co-ordinator Linda Thornton (CLOK)
NEJS Co-ordinator Linda Thornton (CLOK)

BOF Representatives

Fixtures Group Duncan Archer (CLOK)
Coaching Committee Linda Thornton (CLOK)
Council
Map Group John Crosby (NATO)

International Group
Rules Group Paul Taylor (CLOK)

The Chairman undertook to ask Alastair MacKenzie to see if he was willing with the Chairman to cover any gaps in representation. Mike Hardy also undertook to attend an "odd• meeting!

The Chairman explained the desire of the Officers (in accordance with paragraph 3.1 of the constitution) to co-opt Andy Clarke on to the Committee to perform various administrative tasks. This was agreed.

Chairman

4 Development Officers Report

While not "officially• part of NEOA, Heather Monro presented a report (attached) of her activities over the past year.

She stressed the enthusiasm within the Region and the success in establishing Club/School links. Her priorities and plans for 2006 were linked to club activities.RDO/Clubs

5 Junior Squad Report

The full report is attached.

Linda stressed the enthusiasm now apparent within the squad which had attracted favourable comments and much publicity. Thanks were paid to all those who had helped over the past year.

For the future there was a need to pay attention to basic techniques through greater links between club and regional activities. Activities for 2006 were outlined – while this was an increase from 2005 it was on a par with other Junior Squads.

The plans for the Norwegian exchange were outlined; it was stressed that the aim was not to let this interfere with the other activities.

It was also intended in 2006 (with the aid of Clubs) to pilot an idea to offer coaching sessions at District Events.NEJS & Clubs

6 Fixtures

Thanks were paid to Colin Matheson for his role as out-going Events Co-ordinator.

Colin presented a resume of the major events during the past year. The NE Championships had been held the previous Sunday and results had been published on the Internet. The Score Championships were scheduled for 20th November c/o NN.

The Chairman circulated a schedule of the events registered/notified in the last few weeks around the last Fixtures Group meeting (attached). There was already a good programme of events for the next year with host clubs found for all the "usual• events (except for the NE Score Championships). He mentioned three Major Events scheduled for the Region in the next years; BEOC(M) 2007, JIRC 2008 and JK 20

7 SI Equipment

Andrew Nicoll outlined the use of the equipment over the past year. Two boxes had undergone repair and two more currently were in need of repair. Equipment had been shared between two events on the same weekend although this did involve much co-ordination.

There were several items which could be purchased to enhance the system:

- A second inverter £80.
- More boxes to allow for "extravagant" Regional or National events with a possible long term aim of a set of Tyneside and another on Teesside.
- A second Master Control Box.
- Replace three lost SI Cards plus wrist loops for all 60 cards.
- A second splits printer.

The current SI account balance was £3763.32 which represented an increase of £1420.35 from the end of 2004.

It was agreed that the levy made on clubs for the use of the equipment remain at the 2005 rate.SI Manager

After some discussion on the charges made to third party organisations, it was agreed that the current policy that the SI Manager and Treasurer would agree a rate on a case by case basis.SI Manager/ Treasurer

While the original intention had been to build up a fund to replace the whole system, the opinion of the meeting was that the current surplus was sufficient and that expansion of the current equipment stock was desirable. It was agreed that the Chairman and SI Manager would produce a plan to do this next year.Chairman

8 Finance

The Treasurer explained that the financial year ran to 31st December and that consequently the accounts were rather dated. The 2004 expenditure against budget was 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		
English Orienteering Association 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 was £1083.73 which was increase of £83.28 from the start of the year.

The Treasurer also presented the NEJS income and expenditure. The current year currently showed a deficit of £861.13 due to the purchase of

O Tops (£1313.40). However the current level of fund raising by the squad

The Chairman felt the current subscriptions for the NEJS did not reflect the current vivacity of the squad and asked Clubs to consider an increase. The meeting agreed that NATO and CLOK would contribute £300 and NN £75.Clubs

The Treasurer had not produced a specific general budget for 2006 as with a new committee it was as felt that this was uncharted waters. The Chairman volunteered that previous income/expenditure had been set based on a non-active committee and that he would not want the new post-holders to be hindered by a lack of funds. He felt that the present funding levels would enable them to contribute but he would ensure a balanced budget was produced.Chairman

The retention of the current subscription rate for clubs was approved (based on figures of BOF members). This equates to £384 for CLOK £267 for NATO and £78 for NN.Clubs

10 Any Other Business

Trophies. The Chairman asked for permission to replace the Sport Council Trophy for the Region's Best Junior with the balance of the BOC profit. This was agreed.Chairman

Event Standards. Peter F raised the matter of non competitive runners appearing in results. The Chairman pointed out that this was just one example of "falling• standards he had and he would ask the new Standards Co-ordinator to pursue the matter.Standards Co-or

Committee Induction Heather M asked about the induction process for new officials. Mike H offered to ghost a get together and the Chairman agreed to organise this and also more regular (3 monthly?) meetings. These details could be sorted out at the first meeting.Chairman

Mike H mentioned that while a recent application for funding under "Awards For All• had been unsuccessful, he had been told there was money available under the scheme and it was worthwhile making new claims.Clubs

Chairman/Secretary's Report for 2005

Introduction

I am writing this the morning after the National Event at Kyloe; tired sore but actually still enthusiastic! Various highlights: the fantastic views (Holy Island, the Farne Islands, Bamburgh Castle and the Cheviots) especially at sunrise on Sunday to the accompaniment of curlews and various geese, the diversity of the competitors and the enthusiasm of the helpers. It was good to see such a wide variety of competitors all enjoying themselves; the lycra-clad elite, the portly middle aged couple venturing off path for the first time and the "lodge• of young beavers (Scouts) with day sacks as large as themselves – not too mention the ordinary orienteer – if there is such a thing!

Over the last year the majority of NEOA posts have not been filled and the Association has muddled through. I had been rather despondent about the future. Yet a considered view is that that grass-roots orienteering is actually very strong within the region and that, while we do not have the numbers seen in other parts of the country, we can satisfy the vast majority of the people who continue to turn out on a Sunday morning.

Indeed 2005 has seen the Region's Clubs staging more events (both literally and by varied disciplines and type) than in previous years. NATO ran a "long colour coded" event alongside the Phoenix Long-O. CLOK have expanded their Bike-O series and introduced a Sprint Race Championship. The Junior Squad continue to thrive and not only are the North Irish back in last place (12th) but South Central were also pushed into 11th! All in all a considerable effort in planning organizing and controlling.

Top of the individual successes in 2005 are undoubtedly two bronze medals at the World Championships (Heather Monro in the Sprint Race and John Crosby in the Paralympics). Yet I did notice while looking back through all years results the name "Roy Malley" kept occurring - British, British Night and JK Champion!

NATO have joined CLOK in achieving the Sports Council's ClubMark. The fact that 2 of our 3 clubs have reached this standard shows the importance being placed on future development of our sport. Hopefully this bodes well for the future.

Recently I have had numerous conversations in car parks or on the phone to ensure that "volunteers" can be found to produce what I hope will be an effective committee. It is important that NEOA works to pull together the efforts of the main clubs. I hope the next year will see the efforts of the committee remove duplication of effort and increase co-operation.

Finally my thanks to Heather John and Mike for their help and encouragement both to me but also to our sport.

Next Year

Effective Committee Members
Regional Activities plus recognition. (£125)
Re introduce trophies (JK plus)

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

Sell all O tops

Individual

Distribution of BOC04 money

October Odyssey - £130
Junior Squad £100
Replace "Best Junior Trophy"

Report to NEOA Annual Conference
Tuesday November 15th, 2005

Heather Monro
BOF Regional Development Officer (NE)

RDO Role and school club links

Funding for the RDO posts comes to BOF from the government's PE School Sport Club Links (PESSCL) initiative. This stretches to a one day a week in each of the English regions. This funding is ring fenced; hence dictating the RDO's remit.

The PESSCL initiative seeks to promote lifelong participation in sport; in school, out of school and beyond. Emphasis is placed on providing children and young people with opportunities to experience sport at school and to make the transition from school sport into mainstream sport. For our purposes the goal is therefore to increase the number of school children participating in mainstream orienteering events, joining clubs and staying in the sport beyond school.

Working with the Regional Association and the region's clubs

The RDO is a BOF employee and reports to the BOF development managers, however, 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.'

I feel that during the 16 months that I have been in post I have forged good working relationships with the NEOA officers and the region's 3 open clubs. Each of the clubs has its own character and all 3 have chosen quite different priorities and approaches to development work.

A brief summary of my activity since the January 2005 Club delegates' conference follows:

DEVELOPING SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING

Responded to numerous enquiries from schools and colleges in the North East regarding mapping of school grounds, training teachers to deliver orienteering, use of local POC's, local club activities etc.

As far as possible I try to deal with these by using links with the local club mappers, instructors etc.

e.g. recent contact with Sunderland School Sports Partnership has resulted in a level 1 training day for teachers, providing details of NN's POCs and contact with NN mapper for proposed mapping and installation of POCs in up to 15 Sunderland school sites.

SCHOOL - CLUB LINKS

Act as a liaison between schools and clubs and attend meetings with School Sport Partnerships and schools development officers on behalf of / with representatives of the clubs with a view to setting up agreements between the schools and the clubs. E.g.

CLOK

Following contact from a governor of Barnard Castle C.E. primary school a meeting was arranged between the school, represented by the head teacher, the head of PE and the governor, the Durham LEA PE inspector, CLOK and myself. This resulted in an Awards for All grant application towards the mapping of 7 local schools together with coaching and an ongoing development programme linked in to CLOK's successful schools programme. We are awaiting the final outcome of the bid.

NATO

I have agreed to act as a liaison between NATO and school sport partnerships and schools development officers in Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. The aim is to be able to offer a co-ordinated 'package' of mapping, teacher training, supporting the schools to set up and run their own local inter schools competitions and feeding into a possible new schools league / local schools championships. Links have already been established with North Northumberland, Morpeth and Ponteland, North Tyneside and Ashington.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT

I can offer support to the region's clubs that are working towards or have already achieved Clubmark status

NATO

I have supported NATO with working towards their recently achieved CLUBMARK status. There are currently only 7 orienteering clubs in the country with this status, of which 2 are in the North East. Not bad for a region with only 3 open clubs!

CLOK

I have supported CLOK in securing funding for and the appointment of a Community Sports Coach to deliver their mainstream schools programme. I have also supported and advice regarding their recent bid for Sports Science Support through Tees Valley Sport. We are awaiting the outcome of this bid.

DEVELOPING JUNIOR ORIENTEERING

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

An application to the European Commission's Youth Exchange Scheme for funding of the Norwegian exchange is still being considered.

SUPPORTING THE REGIONAL ASSOCIATION

Whilst not specifically within my school-club link remit, BOF has requested me to support the regional association in trying to recruit new officers. Hopefully by the time you read this report we will have been successful!

OTHER

Managing regional PESSCL project funds. All clubs in the region have been invited to apply for project funding. NATO and CLOK have each been awarded up to £1000 towards various school-club link projects during 2005.

Attend meetings of the BOF development team, liase with coaching programmes, share good practice from around the country.
Liase with local sports authorities etc

PLANS FOR 2006

Whilst there are certainly many worthy potential development initiatives that don't fall into the school-club links category, the funding for my one day a week dictates my remit. BOF plans to try and generate further funds to employ the RDOs to work a second day each week on projects chosen by the regions and the clubs have been put on hold due a lack of support from BOF membership.

Ongoing priorities include;

Supporting NATO in establishing stronger links with the school sport partnerships in Northumberland, Newcastle and N.Tyneside

Continuing to support 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.

I am required to submit 6-monthly reports of my work to BOF and I circulate these to those who I think might be interested. If you would like to receive these please let me know.

Heather Monro
13-11-04

heather@britishorienteering.org.uk
tel. 0191 386 0643

SI Equipment, 2005

Used about 18 times this year.

Occasional box breakdowns normally from early battery failure.

2 boxes have been back for repair, one was reprogrammed and the other got a new coil.

2 more boxes are not working - looks like water seeped in at the October Odyssey - drying them out did not work so they are going back to SportIdent for repair. Plus another one whose beep is mighty faint.

There was not a single box problem at the Kyloe National event.

There was one weekend when we successfully shared the gear between 2 events. Possible Purchases

Another inverter - both CLOK and NATO now are using/can use multiple computers at events. Needs more than one power supply so an extra inverter (on top of the 2 we already have) sounds a good idea. Maybe get one rated at 500 watts rather than 300 (as at present) - costs about £80 - the extra wattage would give greater flexibility.

Boxes - there is now a new lighter control box. It has a much longer lasting lithium battery and only needs programming to correct the time of day or the box number. It is woken up automatically by the first person to punch (takes less than a second extra). We currently have 80 boxes - enough for a badge event but we have to hire extra for an `extravagant' badge event or a National event. Do we need more? Do we need eventually one set which lives on Teesside and the other on Tyneside. This might imply 60-80 more boxes.

Could use an extra master control box - if the gear is `out', I cannot do any testing.

SI cards - we have 57. Still borrowing for larger events - eg October Odyssey, Kyloe. Wrist loops for the hire cards?

Splits printer - really need another one if we are going to use 2 downloads regularly. The Epson TM-T90 costs around £350.

Andrew Nicoll, 15/11/05