

Minutes MDOC Committee Meeting 17th August 2020

Ethereal Contributors: Marie Roberts (Chair), Tony Wagg (Sec), Julie Brook, Pete Lomas, Rae Lomas, Dave Mawdsley, Ian Gilliver, Sue Birkinshaw, Pete Ross, Dominic Wathey, Eddie Speak, Kath Speak, Chris Rostron. **Apologies:** Alan Ogden (Treasurer), Sam Drinkwater, Catriona Beynon, Trevor Hindle, Pete Hayes.

1. Minutes of Last meeting: Accepted.

2. Matters Arising and Actions:

(a) The Izettle payments system does not make individual payments into an account and an adequate breakdown of bulk in-payments is available. Hence no new club account is needed.

(b) Knutsford event postponement. This was agreed by the committee at the last meeting, following the recommendation of the working group.

(c) Chris Rostron has circulated a revised set of guidelines for Autumn events, in accordance with BOF guidance issued July 13th 2020.

(d) Macclesfield sprints. Marie has tried to contact Chris O'Donnell about the use of the Kings Macc campus but may have used out of date details. **Action continues MR.**

3. Junior Issues: Dominic reported that Kahoot did not generate any take up so we have to try further advertising. Alain Kyd can email school contacts. Inputs of games, quizzes and other ideas are welcome. Strava is a further option. We could advertise how to make settings more private and then issue navigation challenges and links to orienteering.

The website gives interviews with Ben Kyd and Emily Sparks-Welch. This could lead to a chain where each interviewee nominates a further candidate.

4. Finance: Sarah Brown has received confirmation that Sport England has approved the grant for the Urban Adventures project. No one has yet offered to become the new treasurer so Marie will make a further appeal. **Action MR.** (update since meeting – we have a volunteer).

5. Reports:

5.1 Event/Activity Planning:

(a) Autumn Events. Draft Guidance Document (version 3) for running our events under Covid conditions. Chris circulated the latest draft, incorporating BOF recommendations and including contactless payment, simplified registration and social distancing. A flyer has been issued and a list of kit to be purchased drawn up. Permissions have been requested but Chorlton and Vernon Parks have not yet replied. An organiser is in place for 2 events but Chris expressed concern about the viability of the first two events.

Grahame Crawshawe has suggested that volunteers could be unwilling to operate Izettle payments face to face at NSL events and proposed bank transfers as an alternative, perhaps paying for the whole series in one go.

Pete Ross suggested the use of Maprun at early trial events as this involves no equipment, could be pre entry only and could be classified as an activity. In woodland there could be a local loss of signal however. An event is available at Wythenshawe Park for about 2 weeks from August 29th. This could form the basis for a trial event, testing the entry and payment system. Sue and Pete agreed to set up such an event on Wednesday September 2nd. Courses range from Yellow to Red, and some combine

park and urban terrain. All events require a Covid risk assessment. Ian has produced Covid RA's for Queens Park Bolton and NSL, but pointed out that a standard BOF RA was required in addition. Chris has drafted an example for Chorlton and these can form the basis for Wythenshawe.

5.2 Marketing: The working group, including Nick Taylor and Matthew Snarr, had a constructive meeting. The web should form the core resource, with Facebook allowing debate, and Twitter contact with other groups. More photos of finishers were needed and the committee agreed prizes totalling £20 should be available for the best photos, following Matthew's suggestion.

5.3 Membership: The new directory has been sent out. Cecilia (Fenerty) has proposed that social distancing rules may still rule out a New Year social. We could replace it with an out-door get together next Summer. Furthermore, the traditional Lyme score event looks doubtful as the park is limiting vehicle numbers and social distancing for a mass start event cannot be achieved. We must await developments from BOF and Lyme (as the only park with a disease named after it?).

5.4 GMOA:

(a) The AGM will take place on September 10th via Zoom.

(b) Every permanent course has been checked within the last three months.

(c) Urban Adventures Filming. Filming has taken place at Queens Park Bolton and Bramhall Park with some ideal family participation. Plans to use Bogart Hole Clough have been abandoned due to difficult negotiations with the local management. A new location is required. Woodbank is a candidate.

5.5 Event operation: It was agreed that a tablet is purchased to operate the new payment system, at a likely cost in the region £100-150.

5.6 Schools: Pete Hayes circulated a note on developing junior orienteering. He was not able to participate in the meeting but the note was heavily based on the results of a survey he had organised. Some of the ideas cannot be tried until Covid restrictions are fully lifted. Proposals include a junior schools league, certificates and medals on the day, more training sessions before events and quizzes and puzzles to take away. Sessions so far run by John Kewley were praised.

The ideas were appreciated. Some have already been tried in various forms and currently we are struggling to find key officials for our existing program of events. Formal coaching sessions require qualified coaches and at present we only have John. Our local events are planned to avoid overlap with those of DEE. Initially Saturday morning events were aimed at schools but entry was widened to boost numbers with little extra effort involved. Jenny Shaw and Pete Lomas have coaching materials which can be passed on to Pete H. Ian drew attention to a link he circulated (28th July) where the Orienteering Foundation is offering to fund a part time club development officer. Applications must be submitted by September 13th.

6. MDOC AGM: This will take place via Zoom on October 15th. Papers need to be sent out to allow election nominations and absentee voting. Marie will make a further appeal for a new treasurer (but see section 4) and Rae Lomas agreed to contact possible new recruits willing to stand for the committee. Several of the present committee are unable to continue (and all are youngsters ie under 70!). If no new blood is forthcoming, 30% of male committee members will be called Pete.

7. AOB: Eddie warned that SI software licences were due for renewal at an estimated cost of £300-400. This was approved by the committee.

8. Next Meetings: The next (virtual) committee meeting will take place on Monday September 7th.