

Minutes MDOC Committee Meeting 8th April 2024

Attendees: David Wathey (Chairman), Julie Brook, Pete Hayes, Tony Wagg (sec), Paul Watson, Marie Roberts, Sue Birkinshaw, Wang Ki Yuen, Dom Wathey.

Apologies: Liz Hamer Davies, Peter Cull, David Isherwood, Rae Lomas, Kath Speak.

1. Minutes of Last meeting: Accepted.

2. Matters Arising and Actions:

(a) Waiver of BOF levy on charity event (Jan 2024). We await a ruling from a forthcoming BOF Board Meeting.

(b) New membership structure. Deferred to May committee meeting. Kath provided year-on-year membership data from 2019 – 2024. This was circulated to the committee on March 24th. Following a post covid dip, we have grown recently such that we now have one more member than in 2019.

(c) Website development. Julie requested comments on a list of club websites designed by Paul Frost. Written comments were received from Paul Watson and Tony Wagg and Pete Hayes added verbal comments. Most sites were well received and TW and PH praised Saxons in particular. The issue will be further progressed at the next meeting with a view to commissioning a new site by November 2024 or shortly after. Elderly items on the current site may need to be archived.

(d) Stores. Julie, Sue and Tony will visit stores and report to the next meeting items that may no longer be needed. If we have to move (likely but not certain) downsizing may be necessary. **Action JB, SB, TW.**

3. Intermediate Committee Meeting March 25th.

This considered club development. David W presented a draft for discussion dated Feb 26th. He will update that in the light of the meeting and circulate. **Action DW.**

4. Fixtures Sub Committee Report:

4.1 Autumn Series. Chris Rostron has prepared a list of provisional dates and venues., including Sale Water Park, Brabyns (but no facilities including toilets), Reddish Vale and Tegg's Nose, though Longford Park could be better alternative. Most have cafes (to be confirmed). A Mini O Fest could be held on October 5th or 16th. Courses will include easy and hard 45-minute score courses plus a technical score for those with experience. Venues should ideally offer good facilities (eg catering and parking) and marketing is important.

4.2 Manchester in May. Entries by early April were 69 for day 3 but low for Wythenshawe on day 4 (Monday). If final numbers double, the weekend will break even. All juniors will receive a medal at the finish but no other medals will be awarded.

4.3 Single entry system evaluation. Our choice must consider the needs of competitors, organisers and finance. Prepayment for local events speeds the registration process on the day but could add work to the allocation of loaned dibbers and the production of results. David Isherwood has contacted both SI and Race Signup, both of whom claim to offer solutions to dibber allocation issues. Marie agreed to begin an evaluation process after the May weekend. Input from others will likely be required. DW stressed the need to define essential features that we require.

5. Finance: Peter was unable to attend but has reported the following:

(a) A further £10k has been transferred to the high interest Lloyds deposit account. About a further £30k remains in the HSBC account for which more modest interest can be sought. David W commented that that future development plans were unlikely to require more than £20k.

(b) Lakes 5 profit share. Those helpers requesting payment have now been paid. Peter queried exactly how much of the remainder was to be paid to the O Foundation as opposed to retention in Club funds. TW agreed to trawl through previous minutes and inform Peter. **Action TW.**

(c) Mileage expense payments. Following a review of rates used by BOF (unchanged for some years), LOC and HMRC policies, it was agreed that the Club should pay 30p per mile henceforth.

(d) Transport to the Yvette Baker Trophy final (Potters Bar, early July). We agreed to cover the cost of a coach. The size of coach can be determined when it is clear who is going (mainly Fallibroome students) but the cost is likely to be of order £450-500.

(e) Grants to seniors for international representation. While we have a defined policy for juniors, seniors have been treated on a case-by-case basis. After some debate, the current policy will be maintained but applications from seniors are welcomed.

(f) Rewards for helpers. It was agreed at the 2020 AGM that we should to offer helpers 2 free runs at the level of event at which they served. Sue pointed out that this was difficult to apply and for the most part had not been. She offered to seek a solution.

6. Rebranding and Kit Update: A survey of members' opinions and wishes has been carried out. The results were circulated but not discussed. About 75% of respondents thought the logo was fine or OK but could be refreshed. Most people liked the club colours but nearly half favoured brighter versions. The most popular option for patterns and prints was 'no strong preference'!

7. News Bulletin: There have been no offers to assist in the production of our current monthly bulletin so it was agreed to survey the membership to determine what form it should take, how frequent and whether the effort be justified. **Action DW, MR.**

8. AOB:

(a) Congratulations to Dave McCann who was chosen as BOF Volunteer of the Year.

(b) Congratulations also to John Kewley and Eddie Speak on becoming grade A controllers.

(c) AGM will be held on 17th October 2024. Venue tbc.

Next Meeting:

13th May venue at Cheadle Village Hall.