

East Midlands Orienteering Association Executive Committee Meeting – 19 April 2021

Item No	Description	Action
<p>Present: Trudy Crosby (LOG), Ann-Marie Duckworth (DVO), Mike Gardner (DVO), John Hurley (DVO), Randal Macdonald (DVO), David Olivant (NOC), Pauline Olivant (NOC), Hilary Palmer (NOC), Chris Phillips (LEI), Iain Phillips (LEI), John Woodall (NOC), Ally Wright (LOG) and Paul Young (DVO) .</p>		
	Held on Zoom.	
1.	Apologies for Absence: Ursula Williamson (LEI)	
2.	Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 18th January 2021 – The minutes of the January meeting were approved. Approved: John Hurley Seconded: John Woodall	
3.	Website version of minutes – The minutes of the January meeting were accepted for promotion to the EMOA website with some minor amendments. Approved: John Hurley Seconded: John Woodall	Mike Gardner to inform webmaster.
4.	Actions Outstanding from previous minutes (not covered elsewhere) There were no actions outstanding from the minutes.	
5.	<p>Financial Secretary's Report</p> <p>Paul stated "I don't think it will come as a surprise to anyone that financial activity has been very limited over the last few months.</p> <p>In terms of movements since the last meeting we have continued to see the steady inflow of Membership payments via BOF (anecdotally a few of my friends have only just renewed membership for 2021 now that clubs are able to put on events again) there is likely to be a little more income to come via this route over the next few months. The only expense incurred is the purchase of a new trophy for the M75 category.</p> <p>In other finance related matters, DVO has recently discussed the Chatsworth mapping prepayment of £600 from some years back. They continue to experience challenges in arranging a large event on the site but still hope to be able to run a lower level event in the future and as such the prepayment will be settled. I'm sure John H will be able to reaffirm the current DVO thinking on this matter.</p> <p>It is possible we will get more renewals as events take off again (it was noted that the British Middle Distance event entries opened today). At this stage we are $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the year and have most membership levies in, but have not spent much so the committee may want to think how we can best use the income.</p>	

<p>6.</p>	<p>Development</p> <p>Following on from the Financial Secretary talking about how we spend the income, Ranald noted that he had hoped to host an on-line Development Conference in June but due to moving house he had not had chance to sort this out. He still wants to do something for event officials to cover some key issues (e.g. the use of risk assessments particularly with COVID restrictions and how to allocate start times). If he did not get anything in place for June would like to do something in September.</p> <p>The latest BOF Strategy came out in the last few days. It is particularly looking at improving the retention of newcomers, but also want to enhance the experience for those we already have.</p> <p>Discussions took place on the best length for an on-line zoom session. It was felt that keeping sessions to around an hour was the optimum time. The advantages of zoom type sessions is there is no cost, and for longer conferences you don't have to attend all the sessions. However, the real benefits of conferences and workshops is often in the discussions around the edge of the conference which you don't get when conferences are on-line.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Coaching</p> <p>Hilary stated it was interesting to see how many coaches from the regions have completed the recent safeguarding workshops (DVO – 7, LEI – 2, LOG – 2, NOC – 5). Not attending the workshops does not prevent coaches from coaching but it may impact insurance for some coaching as the coach may not be licensed.</p> <p>We should encourage best practice in terms of safeguarding. There are 2 courses available, the British Orienteering on-line course which takes 45 minutes and is suitable for coaches who do not work with children, and the children's safeguarding course which takes 3 hours. Details on these courses is available on the BOF website at British Orienteering. (It would be helpful if club reps could check whether their active coaches have completed a suitable safeguarding workshop. Clubs should pay the fees for their coaches)</p>	<p>Mike to include information on the safeguarding courses in EMEWS</p> <p>Club Reps to check whether their active coaches have completed a suitable safeguarding workshop</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>EMJOS Summary</u></p> <p>The squad are just about to shift into third gear.</p> <p>The experienced group of 6 are continuing and the squad are developing the next group of 5-7. Sessions are held on Zoom. During May/June, 7 training events are planned including Bagworth, South Common, and the 4 DVO local events where it is intended to embellish the short course with training, then have a competitive run. There are selection races for British Teams coming up. Some members are being encouraged to go to Hambleton where the</p>	

	<p>squad will team up with South Central Squad. The aim is to have a set of quality events before the British Middle Distance champs take place. There should also be a Junior Squad event on the Friday evening.</p> <p>The intention is to get the experienced orienteers ready so they have good results and get selected for Lagganlia and Deeside.</p> <p>Talent Pools for the Scots, Northern and Southern orienteers are used to feed into the British Squad. These talent pools are at a higher level to regional squads.</p> <p>There are fluid selection policies at present due to COVID.</p> <p>The EMJOS have also updated the consent form and updated the child safe policy for the squad.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Mike had circulated information about the SINS event (including the Midland champs) entry being delayed.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Fixtures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EMOA League 2021 / EMOA Urban League 2021 – One question asked was whether we should still award points for events with restricted entry numbers. At this stage we will continue to award points and include these events in the league. There may be future events where there are limited entries as we come out of lockdown so would encourage members to enter early. There is still a likelihood that events may not all take place so we will try to maintain a league based on these restrictions. 2. Future Major Events <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) 27 Jun 21 – East Midland Champs 2021 – DVO - Chinley Churn – This should go ahead as private landowners have already agreed access. (If for any reason it does not go ahead then LEI event at Hanging Hill on 14th Nov will be used). ii) 12 Sep 2021 – East Midlands Sprint Champs – NOC – Area to be decided. iii) 17 Oct 2021 – CompassSport Cup Final 2021 – Now to be OD at Sutton Park not Chatsworth. iv) 29 Jan 2022 – Pre-Midland Champs 2022 – DVO – Area to be decided. v) 30 Jan 2022 – Midland Champs – NOC – Sherwood Forest vi) 20 Mar 2022 – East Midlands Champs 2022 – DVO – Stanton Moor - will be a level B event. (subject to British Champs not being this weekend, though this now looks unlikely) vii) 3 Jul 2022 - Yvette Baker Trophy Final 2021 – LEI – Irchester (moved on a year) viii) 8 Oct 2022 – British Schools Score Champs – DVO – Shipley Park 3. Future Possible Events - None 4. Ursula had sent note that her hopes for a joint weekend of urban orienteering in the Hinckley area have come to nought, though the urban event at Burbage on Sun 19th Sept will go ahead. 	

	<p>5. There is a new agreement with Forest England and the price for access for orienteering has gone up quite steeply for level D events which start at £125, plus as admin surcharge of £30.</p> <p>6. LOG noted they had now started their spring series and had good attendance at the events.</p> <p>7. Pauline stated that NOC will not be offering the same number of events for next year's EM leagues due to membership decrease and getting officials for events. At present they hope to provide 2 EM league and 1 urban league events next year.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Reports</p> <p>1) Orienteering Foundation (Pauline Olivant)</p> <p>EMOA committee meeting 19 April 2021</p> <p>The Chair of the Foundation has been taken over by Andrew Evans (DFOK), Neil Cameron (NGOC) the retiring chair is saying a trustee. Duncan Archer (CLOK) has also stepped down as a Trustee after 6 years on the Board and he will continue as an Ambassador for the North East. We also welcomed Georgia Jones to her first meeting in January as a Trustee. She is a recent graduate from Exeter University and was the driving force behind the establishment of their new club (OROX).</p> <p>Latest news</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forth Valley Orienteers being awarded a grant to support for extending the hours of their Club Development Officer. • The Trail O Development Steering group were awarded a grant for the production of a promotional video. • Over £6,000 had been donated by BOC 2020 entrants to the Foundation by declining their entry refund in favour of using it for JROS support. • Unfortunately, because of Covid, further coaching days will not be held until at least towards the end of 2021. • The Foundation is sponsoring a “think tank” project where the Foundation will appoint a small group of participants to review orienteering issues and make proposals. This will be done in close cooperation with British Orienteering. The pilot will look at the issue of improving the retention of newcomers to orienteering. <p>If you would like to read more about this news or would like to find out more about the work of the Foundation please see their web site, www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk or contact me if you would like to discuss anything further.</p>	

	<p>Pauline Olivant - Trustee Orienteering Foundation - 01623 792336 -p.olivant@btinternet.com</p> <p>2) Charnwood Forest Report (Roy Denney)</p> <p>My report is not a National Forest report as such as we are not meeting at present and the nature of the meetings make zooming not worth it. Most of the efforts of the top team at the Forest Company are currently directed at the Charnwood Forest Project. Charnwood Forest is of course a part of the National Forest Area. The Steering Group for the project do zoom regularly and I am on the group as a board member of the Charnwood Forest Regional Park</p> <p>The project is in the name of the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership comprising members of the Park Board, officers from the district and borough authorities involved, the County Council, The quarry industry, National Farmers Union and wildlife trust.</p> <p>We have been successful in a lottery bid and now have a budget of over three million pounds to spend over the next five years in enhancing and protecting the forest area and educational projects aimed at getting local people to appreciate its importance and the need to protect it.</p> <p>Access is a large part of the project and new paths are going in creating safe off-road links between open areas which will help with orienteering events. A visitor centre is being constructed at the Outwoods which hopefully will assist us when we want to stage events there and to sell POC maps. A shelter is also to be built as an outdoor school facility in Swithland Wood which also might be a base for events.</p> <p>Major planting schemes have dried up but some smaller woodland sites have been acquired and planted up but the effort now is on connectivity between these which might make using some of them a practicality</p> <p>Bradgate Park Trust are on the steering group but a year after the top man (<i>a good friend to orienteering</i>) resigned, the lady running the park day to day has also decided to leave. She was another good contact who had in the past helped us first as an officer of the County Council then as officer in charge of outdoor areas at Oadby & Wigston Council before taking up her role at Bradgate</p> <p>I know many of the understaff at the park and have met the new top man a few times but the new regime there are not operating in a manner conducive to long term event planning.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Sharing Best Practice</p> <p>No specific best practice was identified for discussion this time.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>EMEWS:</p> <p>The next EMEWS is planned to be out after this April committee meeting.</p>	

<p>14.</p>	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John Hurley asked for clarification on the new child safeguarding policy. The previous O-safe document included sections on coaching ratios (4.1), use of social media (4.4), changing areas (4.5), transporting children (4.6), medical treatment (4.7) and image taking and the use of images (4.8). John wanted to know if there was an intention to reissue these guidelines as separate documents in due course (and what the current status of these sections was). It was agreed that John should contact Peter Brooke directly. 2. John Hurley also asked about the latest BOF Strategy document which is subtitled “Thriving clubs for a new generation”. On the website it refers to the full strategy, but the link takes you back to the 22 page document. Chris believed that the full strategy is still to be discussed. Chris will follow up with Peter Hart as to the status of the strategy. 3. In terms of a response to the paper “Thriving Clubs for a new generation” it is thought each club may want to respond separately, but it may be worth sharing their response with the other clubs in the region, rather than try to co-ordinate a regional response. 4. There was an item on the BOF website to look at winning times and course lengths for female athletes, so that they should be the same as for male athletes. Chris asked the female members of the committee for their feedback on this. The committee members were predominantly against this. It was felt this would for many competitors change the flavour of the sport from a brain sport to an endurance sport, especially for the elder competitors. It may be appropriate for the elite athletes and Ann-Marie said she would talk to her “experts”. 	<p>John Hurley to contact Peter Brooke for clarification of the “missing” sections from the O-safe document.</p> <p>Chris Phillips to follow up on status of the BOF strategy with Peter Hart.</p> <p>Club Reps to get clubs to respond separately to paper and share response with other regional clubs.</p>
<p>15.</p>	<p>Dates and venues for future meetings:</p> <p>The next committee meeting is to be Monday 21st June. It is still planned to be a Zoom meeting.</p> <p>The following meeting will be the AGM which is planned for 13th September. Discussions will take place at the June meeting as to whether this should be in person or on Zoom.</p> <p>All meetings (normally) to be held at the Pace Room, St Mary’s Church, Clifton Village, Nottinghamshire at 7.30 p.m.</p>	<p>Mike Gardner to send out agenda for June meeting nearer the time (using LEI zoom if zoom required)</p> <p>Mike Gardner to add discussion on AGM to the agenda for the June meeting.</p>

Meeting closed at 9:05pm