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Forth Valley Orienteers

Orienteering at the Heart of Scotland

Committee Meeting

Date	Thursday 25 February 2021 (19:30-21:30)
Location	Zoom
Present	Jon Cross, Roger Goddard, Paul Hammond, Andy Llewellyn, Neil Polwart, Steve Scott, Chris Smithard
Absent	N/A
Apologies	N/A

1. Welcome to new committee members

- JC welcomed new and returning members to the committee.

2. Approval of previous minutes

- Minutes of previous committee meeting on 10 January 2021 were accepted.

3. Event forward planning

- After general discussion of impact of Scottish Govt legislation, all agreed that local club events from April onwards were reasonably likely to be permitted.
- JC had spoken to Fiona Kier @ SOA about restarting events prior to Scottish Govt announcement on 23 February. **ACTION JC** to follow up with Fiona before SportScotland start drawing up new rules.
- After general discussion that any events planned would be liable to change at short notice, CS raised a concern that permissions information may not have been fully handed over to Ben/Josie from Sarah and possibly also Hazel. **ACTION JC** to contact Ben/Josie and Sarah/Hazel to ensure all permissions information has been transferred.

WEE

- Agreed to start WEE series on 28 April at Minewoods, based on the forecasted return to the tier system on 26 April.
- All agreed to hold back new maps of Coilhallan for larger events.
- **ACTION SS** to propose new WEE schedule.

Scottish Spring weekend (29-30 May)

- JC proposed we should agree to host the event at Auchingarrich on 30 May, and suggested Dave Godfree could plan – all agreed. RG suggested it be promoted as a junior event with the possibility of adult courses if Covid restrictions allow. AL asked whether it would be an FVO or SOA event and whether income/expense would be for FVO. **ACTION PH** to confirm to Sarah Dunn that FVO are happy to organise the event, and to clarify what is expected from FVO.
- JC noted that the sprint event on 29 May may also serve as a WOC selection race for the British team.

Harvester

- JC brought the committee up to date with discussions around the Harvester. Trevor has been in discussions with BOF. End of June 21 is considered too risky vis-à-vis Covid restrictions. Delaying to Oct 21 looks difficult as may clash with rescheduled BOC Long and daylight/weather likely to be poor. BOF happy to delay to same date in June 22 but this would clash with WOC in Demark which could leave FVO short of competitors and/or organisers.
- RG asked about holding event in July 21, JC said this would clash or conflict with S6D. PH asked whether the idea of running Harvester after Day 3 of S6D had been discussed, JC had decided this was probably not the year to propose it.
- All agreed that Trevor should negotiate a more amenable date in 2022 for FVO to organise the Harvester.
- AL proposed a small overnight event for FVO in 2021 as compensation, all agreed this was a good idea. **ACTION JC/CS (?)** to review possible relay formats e.g. Night Hawk and make a proposal.

Other Events

- RG is hoping to hold some SWAT events (training or races) before the FVO events start. Would like to use South Achray / Barrwood / Duncraggan for these. **ACTION RG** to contact Ben/Josie directly to arrange permission as required.
- SS noted that our Kincaig training weekend (24-5 Sept) now clashes with the Scottish Sprint Champs so should be rescheduled. AL advised that Kincaig is pretty flexible and dates later in the year are less popular, so we should retain our booking for now until events are confirmed. **ACTION JC** to contact Paul Caban to check fixture list for September.
- JC brought up the Stirling City Race and suggested it would work nicely with CSC in 2022 and Euromeeting in 2023, so asked if we should hold this first event this year. All agreed this was a good idea, but no action defined at this stage.

4. Mapping update

- All thanked Graham for the comprehensive update provided by email ahead of the meeting.
- AL suggested we authorise the small spend on the Polmaise and Falkirk Wheel updates, all agreed. **ACTION AL** to inform Graham.
- There was some discussion about whether FVO could obtain the Edinchip or Dundurn maps from SOA. AL said he thought SOA did not have a strategy to unload S6D maps. RG commented it would make more sense for TAY to apply for Dundurn and FVO for Edinchip. **ACTION JC** to contact SOA about acquiring the map.
- CS informed the meeting that he was in the process of buying some land near Linlithgow and would be creating a map that FVO could acquire in the future.

5. Finance update

- AL reported that the £6k grant from the Lottery has come with minimal constraints on how it is spent. We have earmarked £2k for the CDO which leaves £4k for mapping. £1400 of this is earmarked for Gartmorn Dam to go with the £250 from Clacks Sports Council.
- AL proposed that we should decide on the mapper for Gartmorn Dam at the next committee meeting.
- JC said there was no rush to decide on purchasing the Bannockburn map from MPA or the Gleaneagles map from the Gleaneagles Estate, all agreed.
- JC recommended we keep the remainder of the £4k for mapping Devilla/Tulliallan for the CSC Final, plus other projects to be decided later.
- CS commented that the Devilla/Tulliallan mapping should be done in Oct 21 so the forest is in the same state as for CSC Final.

- JC said there was no rush to decide on purchasing the Bannockburn map from MPA or the Gleneagles map from the Gleneagles Estate, all agreed.
- There was discussion about the arrangements for map after CSC Final since it is owned by KFO. **ACTION PH** to contact Graham and Brad to find the state of negotiations with KFO and what state the forest is in (has recent felling made it un-runnable?).
- CS raised a concern about using the Lottery funding to pay for mapping that will belong to KFO – is it an appropriate use of funds, and could we find an alternative FVO area? JC commented that the decision to use Tulliallan/Devilla has been made, SS added that the area is already under embargo, so all agreed that we need to continue with this plan.
- JC suggested we find out what has been agreed and check it makes commercial sense i.e., we should aim to recover the cost of the mapping from the CSC Final itself. AL has budget from previous CSC Finals which can be used as benchmark. If we stand to not recover the mapping costs, then we should negotiate additional use(s) of the map with KFO.
- JC asked what membership renewals are looking like for 2021. NP said that BOF members had almost all renewed but only two-thirds of SOA members had done so, which is apparently the norm. NP plans to send pestering email to non-renewed members as soon as we have a programme of events with which to tempt them back.
- **ACTION NP** to check membership renewal rates at SOA level to understand if our rates are above/below average.

6. Development Officer

- JC summarised that AGM supports recruiting CDO at 2 day/week as a long-term intention, and an advert along these lines has been drafted.
- SOA have been through a similar recruitment process recently and did not attract many applicants.
- JC requested permission to finish advert, check with CS and AL, and then publish – all agreed. **ACTION JC** to complete and publish advert.

7. Strategic Plan

- JC said he plans to globally acknowledge concerns raised at the AGM in the newsletter, rather than contacting people individually. RG commented that we will have some leeway in how we implement the strategy to try and minimise volunteer burnout.
- JC asked how we should communicate progress against the 4-year plan to members. SS suggested we need an operating plan with interim steps, AL mentioned that the O Foundation grant application had such a plan. **ACTION ALL** to check individual responsibilities in the strategic plan and consider how to feedback on progress for next committee meeting.

8. Safeguarding and First Aid

- RG informed the meeting that SOA are now looking for all coaches to hold PVG with SOA, and all our coaches except one currently have this. However only 6/14 are currently licensed due to lapsed First Aid qualifications – this is being managed by ensuring session cover until coaches have a chance to refresh their qualifications.

9. Outstanding Actions

- **ACTION PH** to follow up with Brad on whereabouts of Jim Herdman trophy.
- **ACTION PH+JC** to check sharing of events organiser pack via club share folder.
- JC reminded the committee of Cornelia Müller's visit in October which will coincide with school holiday and CSC Final. She is looking to coach so we need to prepare a suitable plan.

10. AOCB

- Committee WhatsApp group was decided against as not everyone has access.
- **ACTION PH** to complete ClubSport Stirling Covid impact survey
- Other online events – agreed that an informal coaching session for the whole club would be well received. **ACTION JC+RG** to engage with Mark Nixon on delivering one or two sessions before orienteering resumes.
- SCIO application – AL stated that currently FVO is an informal organisation without charitable status. Becoming an SCIO would give us some of the benefits of being a charity e.g. Gift Aid, while limiting the liability of the committee and members. **ACTION PH+AL** to prepare summary of scheme and application process for consideration at the next committee meeting.
- BOF post holders - **ACTION PH** to request BOF re-instate Jason as POC Officer and add Steve as Incentive Scheme Manager.

11. Next Meeting

- **ACTION JC+PH** to propose date for next meeting.