

SCOA End of Year Report

What's SCOA doing?

We've just reached the end of the SCOA awards season. In recent weeks, it has been my pleasure to present awards to SCOA members; For Southern Championships, SCOA League and SCOA Championships. These events don't just 'happen'. They are planned, often months ahead by volunteer orienteers on your committee and elsewhere. Planning is already in hand for the 2024 SCOA Championships, for instance. This is again being hosted by TVOC at the Chiltern Challenge on 24th March. Details are already on the TVOC website. Do make sure you enter the correct course if you wish to be competitive. The 2024 Southern Championships are being held by GO of SEOA at Redlands near Dorking on 4th February. (SARUM of SWOA will host in 2025 and it's SCOA's turn again in 2026.)

This was Ken Ricketts last season at the helm of the SCOA league. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his quiet, efficient work over the years. We need a successor! It involves taking the results file from BOF results, extracting the SCOA runners and updating the results on the SCOA website. Anybody fancy an armchair role in our sport?

Future SCOA League (SCOL) events include: -

- 29th December SCOL4 Hogmoor (SN)
- 11th February SCOL 5 Micheldever (SOC)
- 17th March SCOL 6 Rushall Woods (BKO)

Colour Badge Scheme

Your Committee is also arranging to resurrect the SCOA colour badge scheme. Glyn Thomas (BKO) has provisionally taken this on. Club Captains should notify him when juniors & novices have achieved three badge times. More details later.

SCOA Junior Squad

Behind the scenes to many is SCOA's very successful Junior Squad, co-led by Simon Kippin (TVOC) and Laurence Townley (SN). As well as funding domestic training and competition, SCOA funds overseas training and competition for the more successful squad members. If your son /daughter can confidently complete an Orange course unaided and is considering moving up to Light Green please consider the opportunities offered by the squad. New recruits are always being sought. Contact details on the SCOA website.

Treasurer?

We have a very efficient Secretary in Fiona Clough (BKO) and acting Treasurer, also Fiona Clough! It is not sustainable for one person to occupy both roles. We have an agm in June. Is there any SCOA member who feels able to step up to take on one of these roles? Job descriptions are on the SCOA website.

December Meeting Key Points

The main topic discussed at our December meeting was what our priorities should be for using our depreciating reserves earned from JK19 and BOC 23. Hitherto, we have only considered bids to fund development (SOC & TVOC for Juniors, BKO for a permanent course at an outdoor education centre). Such bids have long-since dried up.

One suggestion is to return the money to SCOA clubs, perhaps based on levies and/or affiliation fees paid. Another was to look favourably upon club bids for defibrillator purchase. (This latter was strongly discouraged by the experienced professional First Aiders at TVOC's recent Chiltern Challenge. 600m is the maximum effective radius of use. They felt that funding of First Aid courses was more cost-effective.) A bid is already in the pipeline for funding SIAC purchase, and one for professional mapping seemingly not far behind.

How do you think SCOA excess reserves should be used? Your views and suggestions on this would be most welcome. chairman@scoa-orienteeing.org.uk

Jon Wheatcroft (TVOC)

SCOA Chair