



SCOA BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2015

This bulletin provides a brief summary of current SCOA issues, including those items discussed at the recent Committee meeting.

JK 2019

As mentioned in previous Bulletins, SCOA is hosting the 2019 JK. Areas need to be identified and key officials appointed three years in advance, ie by next April.

The current proposal is that the events be held in the following locations (but note that landowner permission has yet to be obtained):

Sprint	Rutherford Appleton Laboratories,
Harwell	
Middle	Bradenham Woods
Long	Cold Ash
Relay	Yet to be determined



Rutherford Appleton Laboratories

Work continues to find a suitable location for the Relay. In many respects, Bradenham would work well as a Relay venue – not least because, for those with long journeys home, Bradenham would be more convenient than locations further south in our area. So an alternative venue suitable for a Middle race would also be welcomed. Clubs are asked to consider options. A key requirement is suitable parking for some 1000 cars.



Bradenham Woods

Meanwhile the following key officials also need to be appointed:

- Overall Coordinator of the weekend
- Day Organisers
- Day Planners
- Treasurer

This is a super opportunity for those of you wanting to officiate at the highest level of event in the UK. As a minimum, organisers and planners will need to have held similar roles for at least two level B events in the past ten years. Please contact chairman@scoa-orienteeing.org.uk to express your interest.

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SCOA League 2015/16

With three events now completed out of the ten scheduled for this season, the early leaders in each league can now be identified. See the current league table on the SCOA website at <http://www.scoa-orienteering.org.uk/scoa-league>

The next SCOA League event is the TVOC event at Bradenham on Sunday 13th December.

Questionnaire about SCOA League and SCOA Championships

There has been a really good response to this questionnaire, with some 120 replies. The questionnaire is about to close, so if you have not already taken the opportunity to give your opinion, you will need to move fast – see <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCOA-Survey>.

The SCOA committee will discuss the results over the next few weeks, with the aim of agreeing any changes to SCOA events (League and Championships) at the March meeting.

SCOA Junior Squad

Three successful training sessions were held in October and November.

The Junior Squad sent 13 athletes to the JIRCs (Junior Inter-Regional Championships) at Cannock Chase in September. They fared well on the individual day, particularly bearing in mind that several squad members were running up an age group. However the squad were less competitive in the relays as they were short of athletes.

Three athletes and two coaches took part in the annual JROS Hawkshead camp in the Lake District for M/W16s. Despite the weather, the athletes and coaches enjoyed the training prepared by the JROS team on the Lakeland terrain. The SCOA junior squad came third in the infamous Hawkshead YHA ultra sprint night-O relay.

Three athletes (Fiona Bunn, David Bunn and Thomas Howell) represented England at the Junior Home Internationals, held in Northern Ireland in October (Bethany Kippin was a non-travelling reserve). Fiona and David won their classes in the individual competition.

Two training sessions are planned for mid February. As ever, the Junior Squad would welcome new juniors to come along. If you can manage an Orange course on your own, and are keen to improve, then please contact Simon or Laurence at juniorsquad@scoa-orienteering.org.uk

The junior squad would appreciate donations of prizes for a raffle to be held in January or February. The funds raised will go towards the squad attending the Junior Inter Regional Competition (JIRC) in Aberdeen next year. Offers please to juniorsquad@scoa-orienteering.org.uk

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Event safety workshops

A substantial number of SCOA members have attended these workshops since they started to be rolled out some four years ago. Up until now, attendance at these workshops has only been advisory for event officials (Organisers, Planners and Controllers). However completion of a workshop WILL become mandatory for event officials from 1st January 2017.

So if you are, or are thinking about becoming an event official and have not yet attended an event safety workshop, please do make sure you attend one in 2016. Please pass your name to Katy Stubbs (technical@scoa-orienteeing.org.uk) who will sort out a suitable course for you.

Clubs & Associations Conference

This conference, which took place in October, focused on the future:

- The Board is working on its Strategic Vision for the next few years which helps with the possible budget streams. It has been disappointed with the very limited response from members & Clubs to its request for input to the plan.
- Ed Nicholas (former BOF Development Officer) gave an enthusiastic presentation, looking at different styles of events that might attract younger people (18 – 35yr olds)
 - more team events
 - Club weekends away
 - Clubs joining up to provide ‘special weekend events’
 - use level D events to try different formats.
- Elsewhere
 - the importance of completing Risk Assessments was stressed
 - a new Volunteer Organisers training package is being rolled out
 - there is a suggestion for Associations to appoint a Regional Volunteer Champion

O-Safe

British Orienteering has published an O-safe document, setting out a framework to meet a commitment to good practice and the safeguarding and welfare of children and at-risk adults within orienteering and orienteering related activities. Clubs and their members are encouraged to read the document, and to consider what actions they should take to fulfil British Orienteering's expectations in this area.

SCOA website

A new section has been added to the SCOA website: you can now see who has won SCOA and Southern Night and Day Championships in the past, searchable by competition, year and club. Do have a look at <http://www.scoa-orienteeing.org.uk/champions-page>

We are also planning to include a section listing kit that can be shared/borrowed by SCOA clubs. More details when it is available.

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