



Hertfordshire Orienteering Club

informally known as Happy Herts

Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday 2 September 2026 at 2000hrs

1	Present & Apologies Ben Bardsley, Hedley Calderbank, Neil Gostick, Hugh Wiltshire, Tom Cochrane, Mike Bennett, David Dixon Apologies: Kevin Parkes, Alex & Jennie Soulsby, Brad Smith	
2	Matters arising and updates from previous meetings (not picked up under main agenda items)	
	The minutes of the 13 July committee meeting were approved.	
	POC actions from 13 July meeting. Stanborough maintenance and Panshanger development are both in hand. Neil will enquire about Lees Wood POC status via Mark Adams. Stanborough and Highfield are both on the BOF 'Go Orienteering' website.	NG
	New Instructor role. Two interested. Alex asking helpers who come to training days.	AS
	Area permissions – engagement with BOF	BB
	DD & MB will discuss how to get more people to sign up for the events mailing list.	DD/MB
3	E-business – pending or completed	
	Migration of documents from Dropbox to One Drive - COMPLETE. HC to archive a copy of Dropbox contents and close Dropbox (first checking any changes since the migration).	HC
	Policy on weather related event cancellation . Wording now agreed and on Organiser WiKi via the 'Emergencies' link – COMPLETE.	
4	Specific Focus	
	- Volunteers - Need to encourage new helpers - Discussion with AS and KP required regarding helper 'training' / upskilling. - More recognition for organisers/planners/controllers (e.g. free entries to subsequent events, 'public' thanks) - Discounted entries for helpers where meal vouchers do not apply (e.g. level C and/or no catering) - MB will recommend/report actions to committee.	MB
5	Publicity, Engagement & Development	
	Progress review discussion is outstanding.	BS
	- Senior participation actions from May minutes 'Introduction to Orienteering' sessions (one or two a year) AS has held two sessions and will feed back the results. 'Season Card' handed out at events etc. No progress reported. Would have needed more certainty on future event locations.[- Publicising future events on maps and results. Next event is listed on the download splits print-out. TC has composed suitable text for rear of single sided maps and will send to MB (for Jersey Farm). Proactive contact with attendees entering as 'IND' subject to data protection rules to be trialled. [BS/NG/TC]. - Offer informal 'taster' experiences at Saturday events. Banner delivered for events where 'passing trade' is likely – COMPLETE - Seek customer feedback from new members and newcomers. Brad circulated Survey Preview Window to committee members for comments. HC to ask Brad for outcome. - Draw members (especially younger ones) closer into the club by providing organising and planning opportunities. MB to consider following a 'pathway'. Still in hand. [MB]	BS/NG/ TC/AS/ MB/HC



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	- Development ideas from May minutes - Summer 'Find Your Way' equivalent. DD & HC spent an August Sunday morning at Stanborough Park, seeking to get people to try some POC controls. Some response but very limited. Conclusion was wrong demographic (families with young children and a clear plan for their visit). - COMPLETE - Other ideas would need more publicity resource, e.g: - Local running club members to be invited to nearby Street-Os. - Emails to local clubs - Outreach Officer.	
6	Captain	
	CompassSport Cup. 39 entries already. TC is targeting some families and individuals to fill gaps. He will also do a direct mail to all club members.	TC
	Club social. Provisionally 29 September at Oaklands but awaiting a response.	TC
	Club Championships. TC will offer a shortlist of events to club members and then decide.	TC
7	Chair/Secretary/Finance	
	Planning for AGM (Tue 15 September - online). HC needs reports from some committee members for him to send out with the agenda.	All/HC
	Support for OpenOrienteeringMap, and O-software vulnerabilities. Carried forward to next meeting. HW had reported at the last meeting that the fee for MapRun was moving from £100pa to around £200pa based on a per capita charge.	BB
	Report of meeting to address succession planning and volunteering gaps. Meeting was held on 6 August and resulted in a list of members to be approached for volunteering.	BB/MB/ AS/JS/ DD/HC
	It was agreed that the new entry fees for Saturday Series events would be as recorded in the July committee meeting minutes, but with half price for BOF adults on W/Y/O courses. i.e: BOF Adults £5; IND Adults £7; BOF Juniors £2; IND Juniors £4; HH Juniors £0; BOF (incl. HH) Adults on W/Y/O courses £2; IND Adults on R/Y/O courses £4. Flat rate late entry fee of £2 would apply to all.	MB
	Club merchandise. DD offered to source HH branded whistles at modest cost. This was accepted.	DD
8	Events	
	Club Sprint Championships. Simon will arrange at Highfield on 8 September using MapRes entries and virtual controls using MapRun	SE/NG
	Senior Home International Relays (Sept. 27). No response from Hatfield to access request. Northaw Great Wood is the fallback option..	NG
	NG reported that permissions were fairly secure up to December this year.	
	A late invoice for matting and tractor services is likely to push the BNOC/AoH weekend into a loss.	
	Proposed 'Meet & Greet' pack. Carried forward to next meeting.	MB/BB
9	Rotas for 'Specific Focus', 'Meet the Committee' & 'Demystifying O Events' see table	HC
10	AOB & Dates of future meetings:	



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22 October (tbc), 3 December (tbc)	All
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Schedule for 'Specific Focus' slot

Date	Subject	Committee member(s)
Previous meetings in grey		
22 January	Publicity	Brad Smith
5 March	Low -key events (incl. Street-O & similar to Find Your Way)	David Dixon
16 April	Planner/Organiser/Helper Training	Alex Soulsby
28 May	Increasing senior participation	Hedley Calderbank
9 July	POC etc.	Emese Svab
2 September	Volunteers	Mike Bennett
22 October	Juniors	Jennie Soulsby
3 December	Area development & Mapping	Simon Errington / Neil Gostick

Rota for HH Newsletter Articles

<u>Newsletter month</u>	<u>Approx. deadline</u>	<u>Meet the Committee'</u>	<u>Demystifying O Events'</u>
Sep-25	24-Aug	Hedley Calderbank	
Oct-25	24-Sep	Ben Bardsley	
Nov-25	24-Oct	David Dixon	OMM - Ben Bardsley
Dec-25	24-Nov	Tom Cochrane	
Jan-26	24-Dec	Hugh Wiltshire	Compass Sport Cup – Tom Cochrane
Feb-26	24-Jan	David Hodson	
Mar-26	24-Feb	Neil Gostick	SEOUL/Urban leagues - David Dixon
Apr-26	24-Mar	Emese Svab	Jukola - Tom Cochrane
May-26	24-Apr	Kevin Parkes	Peter Palmer relays - Emese Svab
Jun-26	24-May	Brad Smith	
Jul-26	24-Jun	Jennie Soulsby	Army events – Mike Bennett
Aug-26	24-Jul	Simon Errington	Overseas events – David Hodson
Sep-26	24-Aug	Mike Bennett	Elite training & competition – Ben Gostick? South East League - ?
Oct-26	24-Sep	(vacant)	
Nov-26	24-Oct	Jacob Sharpe	BOC (incl. relays) - Ben Bardsley
Dec-26	24-Nov	Alex Soulsby	Yvette Baker Trophy - Soulsbys
Jan-27	24-Dec		JK (incl. relays) - Simon Errington