

Minutes of (online) EAOA committee meeting on 12 September 2025

Apologies for absence: Clive Wilkinson (Junior Squad/Suffoc); Bruce Marshall (Equipment/WAOC).

In attendance: Peter Woods (Chair/WAOC), Paul Beckett (Vice Chair/HAVOC), Barbara Beckett (Secretary/HAVOC), Andrew Elliott (Treasurer/Suffoc), Bob Hill (Fixtures/WAOC), David Coton (Trail O/WAOC), Helen Nisbet (Webmaster/SMOC), Michael Chopping (NOR), Rachel Thomas (SMOC), Caroline Louth (Coaching/WAOC); Colin West (SOS).

2. Minutes of previous meeting 9th May 2025 – approved as a true record.
3. Matters arising.

Peter did pass on the Earlham map and David C put on a well-attended and appreciated TrailO event at the British Sprints.

Coaching course – Caroline has had one request; is happy to run a course but needs at least 4 people – it is now mainly online. **Action – Club reps to ask for candidates.**

Club newsletters – WAOC has ceased producing its newsletter; NOR will do a one-off anniversary edition and print it off and post it out!

Controllers' course – Michael has 2 participants (1 WAOC, 1NOR) but would like a few more. He was letting the participants pick dates to suit them and will check out Thorpe Woodlands. Peter suggests a date is set (**update by BB, the date is 6th December**) and in the meantime Club reps should publicize and it will be on the BOF website for any other Regions to respond. **Action – Club reps.**

4. Updates by Officers:

Chairman –

AGM Minutes – reviewed and approved (informally). Peter asked Helen to confirm that AGM and Committee Minutes would be posted on the website. It was agreed to post a rolling year.

Action: Helen as above.

Committee job descriptions - Paul will be producing these – **Action PB.**

British Sprints weekend – PW will circulate the summary of the debrief. Briefly, it went well organisationally, and participants seemed happy. Peter had received a thank you for the way in which a competitor with special needs had been assisted. Bob suggested that in future event details Clubs/EAOA should say that if a participant needs special assistance they should contact the Organiser. Agreed.

Action: Club reps to feed back to their Committees.

Budget – it was a fairly good guide and the weekend did come in under budget although entries could have been higher. There is an approximate net surplus of c£2150, which does not include all expenses including the Free Run vouchers – estimated at £10 per run, so the estimated surplus is c£600. The map of Honington has been passed to RAFO. The UEA and Bowthorpe map will go to NOR. Michael confirmed that NOR will pay EAOA back £1 per map when they use Bowthorpe next year. Caroline will do the necessary work to put the EAOA and Club logos on the maps. Andrew agreed that the surplus should stay in EAOA.

It was agreed that those wishing to use their **Free Run vouchers** should email the Organiser of the chosen event, who will process their entry and they must bring the voucher on the day to be collected in (for Peter/Andrew to tick off the list). For reimbursement of the vouchers Andrew suggests that the Clubs should deduct it from their event levy.

Action: Club reps to pass back this advice.

Paul B proposed a vote of thanks from the Committee to the key officials and their assistants.

CSC Qualifier - Brandon – 22 February 2026 – Sarah M will plan, Peter is the Controller, and the map updates are in hand. It was agreed that this is a good opportunity for someone to gain experience of the role of Organiser at Level B.

Action: Club reps to pass back and ask for expressions of interest.

There are 2 upcoming BOF Seminars – Major Events Seminar – October. Planning – 10 November

Vice Chair – Paul B – BOF/Forestry England MOU is of marginal interest to HAVOC. But HAVOC were approached by FE in response to advertising of one of their MapRun events which crossed into FE land (briefly, and no physical controls were used). Paul had a useful telephone conversation with FE but was told that they did need to go through the full process if the event is charging participants. The lady at FE was understanding, but adamant. The cost is £80 admin fee plus an additional fee per participant if numbers are over 25. As the more popular MapRuns can attract 35-40 competitors, Paul explained that we would avoid their land in future! Paul asked the Committee if any other Clubs had come across this. Bob confirmed that the FE required fee is correct. He noted that Grace Grant at BOF has sent out an email asking how Clubs are dealing with the agreement. A discussion followed. One point to note is that if Clubs do not charge for the MapRun event then no charges would be due. However, Clubs do need to cover costs, so this is probably not a solution.

Secretary – EA Champs trophies – hopefully all now with the 2025 winners.

Treasurer – Andrew provided some figures. The EOC 2025 levy was £397. (up slightly from £364 in 2024.). Juniors selected for summer training camps– Ethan R – Lagganlia (£400 plus travel); Hebe D to Gothenburg (£380). It was agreed that EAOA would pay one third. Peter noted that WAOC Committee had discussed this and that the parents of one of the other selected Juniors were unaware that their Club and EAOA could be asked for a contribution. It was agreed that Club Captains should be the ones to tell these Juniors to ask. But also that there should be a statement on the EAOA website flagging up that EAOA will pay a contribution towards these costs.

Action – Helen to put a wording on the website on the “Junior Squad” page in the introduction following the mention of national training camps (BB comment – suggest the addition here of “and international” after “national”). Suggested wording “Youngsters who are selected for these camps may apply to their Clubs and also to the EA Committee for a financial contribution to the cost”.

Action – Club reps to ask their Committees what their policy is, and if it is supportive, to suggest a similar wording as above is put on their websites if not already there. Also to pass on to their Committees that EAOA currently pays one third as it has sufficient funds but does ask in return for a report from the selected Juniors for the EAOA website.

Fixtures – Bob

2026 – need EAL events and EAUL events. **Action – Club reps/Fixtures Secretary**

Schools League – Glen and Sally are coordinating this – Bob will contact.

YBT heat – HAVOC on 8th March. (NOR hosted in 2025). Bob has pencilled WAOC in for 2027 at Rowney. Paul will put to the HAVOC Committee.

Action – PB to check with HAVOC.

SOS event at High Woods – **Action Colin to update details on the BO website.**

2026 EA Champs. Bob has offered WAOC's Santon Downham – Oct/Nov 2026.

2027 – YBT Final and also BSSC and BSOC. Offers to host needed.

Action – Club reps to feed back to their Clubs.

Approval of Internal Controllers. The following were approved -SMOC – Freya; NOR – Sheringham – Michael C; Kelling – Steve Nobbs. HAVOC – Paul asked to be approved at short notice as the Controller for Epping as the external Controller has stood down due to illness.

All approved.

Trail O – David – There were 51 entries at Earlham Park which compared well with the JK. There were lots of positive comments. David will do a write-up on planning. It was a Level D event, so we paid a levy. David is now looking at putting on a Trail O activity alongside the WOAC ParkO events.

Equipment – see report.

Junior Squad – see report.

Coaching – Caroline – Teaching Orienteering Part 1 and Part 2 will be merged into a 2 day course. Caroline noted that it is difficult already to get people to do just one day! Michael noted that he is qualified and has done courses several for teachers.

Website – **Helen.** EA League hasn't been updated. Paul will email Tony.

Action – PB (update by BB – Tony had overlooked this due to other priorities but will forward to Helen).

Club reps –

See reports – HAVOC, WAOC, NOR, SOS, SMOC.

AOB nil.

Dates of next meetings.

Friday 14th November 2025 and 16th January 2026.

Barbara Beckett, EAOA Secretary

18th September 2025