

Minutes of (online) EAOA committee meeting on 14 November 2025

Apologies for absence: David Coton (Trail O/WAOC).

In attendance: Peter Woods (Acting Chair/WAOC), Paul Beckett (Vice Chair/HAVOC), Barbara Beckett (Secretary/HAVOC), Andrew Elliott (Treasurer/Suffoc), Bob Hill (Fixtures/WAOC), Clive Wilkinson (Junior Squad/Suffoc); Bruce Marshall (Equipment/WAOC). Helen Nisbet (Webmaster/SMOC), Michael Chopping (NOR), Rachel Thomas (SMOC), Caroline Louth (Coaching/WAOC); Colin West (SOS).

2. Minutes of previous meeting 12 September 2025– approved as a true record.

3. Matters arising. Controllers' course – Michael has 3 participants so far for 6th December.

Action – Club Reps to check if there is anyone else interested. Paul hadn't had time to do the job descriptions but should have something for the next meeting. Special Assistance at events –**Action – Club Reps** to ask their Committees to be supportive by including a reference in event details. British Sprints Helpers Vouchers – redeeming these is ongoing and there have been no apparent issues. Wording on Junior Squad page about EAOA financial support. It was agreed to adopt the suggested wording in the Minutes - **Action – Helen**. 2026 YBT qualifier- HAVOC will stage. EA League Results on the Website – Tony has provided updates; the October and November events will need to be added in due course to finalise the League table. **Action – Paul to email Tony B**. There are 2 events missing on the EAUL – **Action – Peter to ask Sarah M**.

4. Updates by Officers:

Acting Chairman – Peter

CSC Qualifier – Brandon 22 February 2026. Peter had received no offers to be Organiser, so he was willing to switch his role to Organiser. Michael C offered to be Controller, and this was accepted by the Committee. Sarah has drafted courses. Peter has looked at the area, the parking etc. and had circulated a draft budget, but an extra amount is needed to pay the Council and provide an additional portable Loo. NOC and LEI are expected to attend; based on an entry of 250 the surplus would be c£800. There was a discussion about the FE fee. The Committee agreed to a provisional entry fee of £15.

Bob advised that as Brandon CP are charging land permission he will check out if it is feasible to park there rather than on the trading estate and walking in. The potential advantages are an area for Club tents and access to the CP café and toilets. But there would be a parking fee for competitors (Ringo).

Action – Bob and Peter to pursue.

Vice Chair – Paul B – nil

Secretary – Barbara B – BOF Association Return completed.

Treasurer – Andrew – Lloyds are closing the old account which has no funds as they have been transferred to the online one. The British Sprints accounts have a healthy balance, but there are bills still expected, including the UEA land access charge. 4 or 5 Helpers' Free Run vouchers are being used per Club event – about 16 claimed so far. He noted that Officials' expenses were lower than expected.

Junior sponsorship of tours – several juniors have claimed. 2026 JIRCs – the deposit to Essex Outdoor Centre has been paid. The balance of £800 will be paid nearer the time.

Fixtures – Bob H – see reports. 2026 JIRCs – regular meetings are being held. There is now no access to Writtle Forest till April due to deer culling. He reminded Clubs to keep the BOF database updated with Event officials and postcodes. Also to add all Activities in order to be covered by BOF insurance. 2026: 4 EA League events (no SMOC Forest event) and several EA Urban Leagues are slotting in. EA Champs – WAOC will host.

14th March 2027 – SMOC have offered Silverstone for the Midland Champs. The clash with the Northern Champs is not felt by ESG to be a problem. Bob wondered about using Rowney Warren on the day before for the YBT Qualifier? **Action – WAOC to consider.**

2027 – YBT Final and also BSSC and BSOC. Offers to host needed. **Action – Club reps.**

Noted that all Regions are suffering problems in getting access to forest areas.

Approval of Internal Controllers. - none, although Michael reminded that NOR are still looking for 2 Controllers for 2026 events.

Trail O – see email.

Equipment – see report.

Junior Squad – see report.

Coaching – Caroline is talking to BOF about the new Level 2 course. Most of the course is now online with one practical session. She only has 1 interested person at the moment and does need a minimum of 4 for the course to run. **Action – Club Reps to ask for potential participants.**

Website – Helen. Has had 3 or 4 reports from Juniors who went to training camps, and there is a new section with the Minutes of EAOA Committee meetings (which will only be posted after they have been approved by the Committee).

Club reps –

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

Andrew - SUFFOC – their next event was Sunday 16th at Nowton Park. He advised that Open Orienteering Mapper, which is used by some Clubs, will no longer be supported.

AOB -

Date of next meeting.

16th January 2026.

Barbara Beckett, EAOA Secretary

15 November 2025