

Minutes of (online) EAOA committee meeting on 13th March 2026

Apologies for absence: Caroline Louth (Coaching/WAOC).

In attendance: Peter Woods (Acting Chair/WAOC), Paul Beckett (Vice Chair/HAVOC), Barbara Beckett (Secretary/HAVOC), Bob Hill (Fixtures/WAOC), Clive Wilkinson (Junior Squad/Suffoc); Bruce Marshall (Equipment/WAOC), Helen Nisbet (Webmaster/SMOC), David Coton (Trail O/WAOC), Michael Chopping (NOR), Rachel Thomas (SMOC).

2. Minutes of previous meeting 17th January 2026 – approved as a true record. **Action: Helen** to put on the website.

3. Matters arising. BOF Safeguarding Webinar is available to look at on UTube. Michael said that the new BOF Controllers' "app" hasn't been published yet by BOF. Any Club should be able to put in a postcode and find a Controller (Sec's note: but see comments below under "Website"). Coaching – see below.

4. Updates by Officers:

Acting Chairman – Peter

CSC Qualifier – Brandon 22 February 2026. Thanks to all Clubs who provided helpers, who were essential to the success of the event. The voided control due to vandalism was unfortunate but made no difference to the results. Michael mentioned the issue to Forest Enterprise who said they would go and look at the area. Bob did email the local Council who weren't interested.

JIRCs update – everything going to plan. Budget meeting is on 17th.

Internal Controllers – might be Ben B for the Bawsey Pits event – no objection in principle.

Controller applications – will discuss by email

Vice Chair – Paul B – has undertaken to do Job Descriptions for the Committee Roles. Will do it before the next meeting. David offered to complete a TrailO one if Paul provided the format.

Secretary – Barbara B – nil.

Treasurer – Andrew did not attend.

Peter noted that it was nearing the end of the financial year and no bill had been received from UEA. Brandon made a good surplus – c£1100 (EAOA would re-imburse SUFFOC for the vandalised control at CSC).

Fixtures – Bob H – see reports.

YBT 2027 will be at Rowney Warren.

BSSC and BSOC. Offers to host needed. **Action – Club reps.**

Paul said that these Closed events aren't very attractive to Clubs – it's difficult to get helpers, Junior fees don't bring in much revenue and they are labour intensive. Bob said this was recognised by ESG.

2028 EAOA CSC round – the venue would require parking for 300 vehicles. Noted that if the event were 2 weeks earlier in the year this would avoid the constraints on use of areas due to ground nesting birds. The Rangers are on side in Thetford but FE have had a change of officers which might have an effect on future land permissions.

Bob had asked about Printer Companies as this was raised at ESG. BML maps have degraded during a wet event. Michael has spoken to the Company who took over Dave Vincent's business and they may be interested in more orienteering business.

Rachel has asked Dorian about the map for the 2027 Midland Champs and Helen believes that it is being updated and the embargoed area registered with BOF. **Action: Bob** will chase.

Trail O – David reported that it had been difficult to put on TrailO National events. And as usual he was looking for suitable venues at local FootO Fixtures. He thought that more orienteers are taking TrailO more seriously.

Equipment – see report.

Junior Squad – see report. Clive's suggested procedure for EAOA to consider and approve applications for financial support for Juniors attending training camps was discussed and approved.

Coaching – On behalf of Caroline, Peter said that Caroline now has the minimum of 4 participants (and would welcome more). The cost is £310 per head x 4 = £1240. She requested that EAOA pay half, which would be £620. Approved.

Website – Helen. EAOA Controllers are listed on the EAOA website – would the new BOF "Find a Controller" database replace this? In theory this will be a useful resource and it would make the website listing redundant. Paul had reservations about whether all Controllers had replied to the BOF request and whether they would be struck off if they didn't reply! Secretary's note: The "Find a Controller" tab is available on the BOF website but a search using the required parameters indicates that the data is not yet complete.

Club reps –

See reports – HAVOC, WAOC, NOR, SMOC.

On behalf of SUFFOC Clive reported that the Tunstall event went well and the next event is the Sudbury Urban in May.

HAVOC – Paul raised the item in the HAVOC report about OCAD and wanted to ask what other Clubs are doing. OCAD now run a subscription service where the up-to-date version is always available and can be shared round the Club. The intention is to get more novice mappers involved. Although it sounds expensive a professional mapper would cost more. Clive said that SUFFOC are now using Open Orienteering Mapper (OOM) and all their maps have now moved across. WAOC – Peter said that Caroline has her own OCAD licence, but other WAOC mappers use OOM. Paul noted that HAVOC had difficulties with moving changes from OOM to OCAD. David C uses OOM for changes to base maps to use for TrailO. Importing from OCAD to OOM works, but may be less easy the other way round. SMOC are using OCAD and have bought ipads for their mappers to use.

AOB -

Date of next meeting.

15th May 2026

Date of AGM – as there was no suitable orienteering event it was agreed to hold a virtual meeting on

Wednesday 1st July 2026.

Action: Club Reps to advertise, to seek nominations for posts and to ask for Agenda items etc.

Barbara Beckett, EAOA Secretary

16th March 2026