**ESSEX STRAGGLERS ORIENTEERING SOCIETY**

**Minutes of SOS Committee Meeting**

Committee Meeting held 19:30 hrs on Monday 11th November 2024 via Zoom:

Present: Eddie Banks (Chairman) David Lumby (Treasurer), Dean Pepper, Roger Gooding, John Russell, Geraldine Russell

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| **No** | **Item** | **Action** |
| **1.00**  1.01 | **Apologies**  Apologies received from Colin West (Club Secretary), Lyn West, Kevin Machin, Steven Partridge. |  |
| **2.00**  2.01 | **Approval to Minutes of Meeting 2nd September 2024**  The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 2nd September 2024 (V2) were approved subject to any further comment. |  |
| **3.00**  3.01  3.02  3.03 | **Treasurer’s Report**  Account balance is £13,363  Affiliation fee for 2025 is paid and there are no major outstandings other than some levy payments.  The balance would allow some funding of school coaching if suitable candidates were found |  |
| **4.00** | **Fixtures Report**  We have two established regional fixtures.  Maldon Urban in May and Writtle as EAL in June.  A status report dated 10th Nov was issued prior to the meeting. (see attached). |  |
| **5.00** | **POCs and Maprun**  No Report |  |
| **6.00** | **Mapping Report**  No report |  |
| **7.00** | **Club Web Site / Webmaster**  No Report |  |
| **8.00** | **Club Development**  The development committee has not met recently, but the bulk of the discussion was around how we would try to reinvigorate the Club.  The Chairman tabled a draft Club Development Strategy which was reviewed by the group. (See attached). The group was largely supportive of the approach.  Specific measurable goals for 2025 still need to be defined.  The initial discussion was around improving communication with the suggestion of a Chairman’s letter, increased use of the Club Facebook page and a consideration of Instagram.  A question was raised as to who had admin rights for the Facebook page. (Post meeting note. Rachel and Steven have admin rights. Anybody FB user can post.)  Use of the Midweek series to reach out to potential new members was suggested.  Schools could be invited to “apply” for coaching. This was felt to be a good idea to get more commitment from a school.  The idea of an Easter Egg hunt was suggested, principally to appeal to families, juniors (and chocoholics!).  There was also a perceived need for a challenge sitting somewhere between street orienteering and TD4/5 colour coded events to appeal to runners and new orienteers. The suggestion of having a long orange course available at level D events.  It was agreed that we should add some Local events to the calendar in the before the Maldon Urban in May  To generate a larger pool of competent organisers and planners it was suggested that a pairing system could be used with an experienced member being assisted by a newer one. This to pass on experience and reduce the load on any individual. |  |
| **9.00**  9.01 | **EAOA Report**  No report |  |
| **10.00**  10.01  10.02 | **Mid-Week Series Report**  The Mid-Week series has gone well and we are now on to the Winter night series.  Organisers are needed for the Summer series |  |
| **11.00**  11.01 | **Equipment & Club Kit**  No report |  |
| **12.00**  12.01 | **Membership Report**  No report |  |
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| **14.00**  14.01 | **Any Other Business**  Junior Squad coaching – Roger will speak to Steve Partridge |  |
| **15.00** | **Date of Next Meetings**  It was agreed to meet again by Zoom at 7.30pm on Monday Dec 2nd. |  |
|  | The Meeting closed at approx. 20:15 hrs |  |