

AGM 2007

Minutes for AGM 2007 held on Wednesday 24th October 2007 at Forest Hills Golf Club, Desford (SK482058)

Members present: Chris Phillips (CP), Roger Edwards (RE), Bob Haskins (BH), Rachel Simonetti (RS), Ernie Williams (EW), Mark Foxwell (MF), Peter Leake (PL), Mark Sherriff (MS), Roger Phillips (RP), David Toach (DT), Roger Kelly, (RK), Simon Ford (SF), Roger Williamson (RW), Ursula Williamson (UW), Roy Denney (RD), John Cooke (JC), Judith Holt (JH), Graham Watson (GW), Lee Powell (LP), John Marriott (JM)

1 Apologies for absence from: Peter Hornsby, Liz Rocke, Simon Starkey

2 Declaration of membership numbers There was a quorum with 20 members attending

The membership secretary reports that 2007 has been a good year for LEI recruitment wise, mainly as a consequence of our recruitment effort at the National Forest Trophy at Ratby Woodlands and with the development teams effort with the juniors.

Total membership – 180 plus 10 Associate BSOA, 9 Associate School and 1 national group and 1 local group member.

3 Approval and signing of minutes of last annual general meeting Meeting of last minutes approved and signed

4 Matters arising from those minutes None

5 Chairman's Report on past year

- See attached report, AGM 2007 – Chairman's Report

6 Matters arising from Chairman's Report Thanks to the Chairman for steering the club over the last year.

7 Treasurers report and budget projections for coming year Surplus profit of £32 this year, however the trend is we are spending more than our income. Most money into the club was through grants, though there was income from the increase in membership and from increased map prices and more map sales.

Outgoings from event equipment – compasses, banners, A frames etc

Event income summary shows that the summer league is a good money earner and that our c4's make money rather than badge events

Budget for the forthcoming year- Is a reflection on estimates in May, which has now been updated. We now expect to be in deficit of £1000 (changed from £6 surplus) next year. Some of the extra expenses shall be the British Middle Distance Championship (BMDC) and the access charges from Leicestershire County Council (LCC) and other access fees. It is ironic that we are getting grants from LCC but are then having to give it back to them by way of access fees and car parking! But we are not the only club with this problem.

Club shop – a big increase in income is expected due to sales of club kit.

We also expect income increase from POC's as we are working more with Councils on their permanent courses.

Grants – the figure in the budget is from bids already put in which we are expected to get.

Expenditure in the budget – we expect to spend money on software and we are also subsidising the club kit

8 Matters arising from Treasurers Report Quite high wastage with unused maps – but that's because we have had a lot of small events. Wastage SF estimates is 10 -15%

Team entries – money into this is going down – have reduced the % of support, but noone is entering the team relay events.

Suggestion by JM that we can saving money by emailing Newsletter, but its important to have written copies to float at events for marketing etc.

9 Independent Financial Examiners Report Accounts have been signed off.

10 Approval of Accounts Accounts proposed by RE and approved by RD & SF

11 Club Membership Fees for coming year 2008-2009 No change to current fee Family £4 , Senior £4, Groups £10, Correspondent – £4

BOF request membership fees amount by September each year so it was suggested we fix fees for 18 months – proposed and accepted by RD and seconded by JH

12 Amendments to the Committee Standing Orders Copy in newsletter of full club standing orders – Reasons for changes to the standing orders is that management and sub committee changes have been made. E.G the summer league co-ordinator's role has been amalgamated into an extra sub committee (the minor events committee) to look after C5's.

13 President's remarks and election of Chairman Thanks to CP for his leadership this year. LEI has been the 'brand' leader regarding our summer league and other clubs are following our lead.

Reminder that the national conference is taking place this Saturday where a major review of structure of future British orienteering will be discussed. BMDC – started planning for this within its set timetable, showing LEI can cope with large events. EW wished the club and its members a successful year next year.

No nominations for chairman before the AGM and it was proposed by EW that CP to remain as Chairman and was seconded by PL

14 (New) Chairman's address and plans for coming year

- See attached report, AGM 2007 – Chairman's Address

15 Election of other Principal Officers (Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) BH re elected as Vice Chair, RE re elected as Treasurer and RS re elected as Secretary. Proposed by EW and seconded by RP.

16 Election of Committee The following people were elected onto the committee: Ernie Williams, Roger Williamson, Simon Ford, Mark Foxwell, Roy Denney, Peter Leake, John Cooke, Judith Holt, Roger Kelly, Kevin Bradley, Andy Portsmouth, Peter Hornsby, Graham Watson, Lee Powell, Irene Marriott, Ben Windsor, John Marriott Proposed by RP and seconded by MS. Jobs to be delegated at November committee meeting.

17 Election / adoption of Independent Financial examiner Auditor – Lewis Sutton stands again – accepted by SF and seconded RK

18 Election of President, Honorary Members It was proposed by CP that EW should stand as President again. Seconded by RK Honorary Members – Lewis Sutton and Tim Marshall with a 3rd new honorary member – Sam Attaway who was proposed by RD and seconded by CP and a 4th new new honorary member Irene Marriott, proposed by JM, supported by CP and seconded SF.

19 Open forum Compass sport – Cannock Chase was chosen by the majority as 1st choice location for 13th January. Reminder of the Grade 3 controllers course end of November and beginning of December. PH – promoted from Grade 2 to Grade 1 controller Planners course will be held in January and February 2008 Organisers course – dates to be advised

SI kit – small working group reporting back to committee, As we are using SI so much, thoughts are we need more kit of our own. Maybe another laptop for C5 events. EMOA wants to buy more kit too and to keep blocks of SI for each club. Problems with keeping up with technology was discussed as possibly more expenditure by the club every year. It was discussed that Ocad and training for SI to be in planning and controllers courses.

It was discussed that Lift sharing would be helpful to the environment and that the website should set up a forum for members to advertise car space for other members.

University promotion – it was discussed that promoting our events to Orienteering Clubs in universities would be beneficial but we would need someone to take project on board and see it through.

It was discussed that BOF were beginning to bring Orienteering related sports into their remit – ie adventure racers and mountain bike O's etc, which until now they had been reluctant to do so.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

AGM 2007 – Chairman’s Report

Ladies and Gentlemen.

There has been so much happening over the last year, that unless I am selective we shall be here till after the bar closes and that would never do! Many of the items I will report on tonight are on going and I shall return to them later in the evening.

I said at last year’s AGM that recruitment was a must and to this end your committee has spent some time looking at ways of increasing membership. We chose the National Forest Trophy event at Ratby Woodlands to be the focal point of a recruiting drive. With generous sponsorship from the National Forest Company we were able to mount a large publicity campaign in the Leicester Mercury and the local newspapers covering the northern part of our area. This, together with many posters put up and leaflets handed out by members of the club, succeeded in attracting over a hundred first timers to the event. Follow up by members of the development team has enabled us to enrol a number of those first timers as club members. I must thank Judith, John, Roy and Roger for the huge amount of work they put in to make the event a success.

The Ratby Woodlands event was not the only plank in our recruitment programme. We have for a number of years had a presence at the Burbage Common open day, thanks to the endeavours of Roger Kelly. This year in addition to Burbage, LEI has been “on tour” to open days at Bosworth Battle Field and Watermeade. We would have been at Sence Valley but the flood waters were too deep even for Orienteers. It is difficult to know exactly what impact these events have but at the very least they introduce orienteering to a wider public and we are aware that some of the people we talk to at these open days do come to other club events.

Much of our recruitment programme has been driven by Judith and Roger and members of the Development Team and it is to the activities of the Development Team I would like to turn to next.

Throughout the year a number of coaching activities have been held as part of the East Midland Coaching Programme.. The Autumn Series of Saturday morning events in Leicester Parks, aimed at junior and novice Orienteers, has also included a coaching element.

Two significant steps in our out reach to schools has been the signing of partnership agreements with South Charnwood Primary Schools and Oadby and Wigston High Schools. We have received grants from British Orienteering to help with the cost of these partnerships and are seeking further funding to cover the full cost of mapping

school sites. The club will be involved with the initial setting up and training in the schools and we look forward to a long and profitable involvement with them.

Progress towards Club Mark status has been steady and I am hopeful that we will have completed all the required work in the next year. In working to the Club Mark award we have a commitment to listening to the views and needs of the younger members of the club and as part of that process I welcome Ben Windsor to the Club Committee as the junior representative.

Our events programme has been a full and busy one. If my maths are correct we have organised 40 events in the last 12 months. My thanks to Mark Foxwell for masterminding the summer league – perhaps next year you could try and pick evenings when its not raining!. Thankfully both the Summer and Winter Leagues continue to attract large numbers as they are crucial to the club's financial health. However I am aware that on occasions our success threatens to overwhelm the slim volunteer resources we are able to commit to these events. The last year has seen an increase use of SI at C5 events and I will be returning to the subject of SI equipment later in the evening.

We have in the last year moved to online entries for our C3 events. We used the Midland Night Championships, which we hosted at Bagworth in November, as a trial run. The success of that trial has allowed us to move forward with confidence and we shall in future be using online entries for all our major events. The next step I think will be online entries for colour coded courses at Badge Events. Some clubs have already moved in that direction.

One problem that we have experienced over the last year is clashes with events put on by neighbouring clubs. In particular we had to move the Willesley C4 event as OD were insistent that they would run their UK Cities Cup event at Warwick on the same day, despite our event already being registered and having appeared on the British Orienteering Fixtures web site for several months. I estimate that the change of date cost us several hundred pounds in lost income. There is a fixtures registration protocol which should ensure that clashes of events do not occur. However some clubs have chosen to ignore the protocols. I have made a formal protest to British Orienteering which, whilst it has not solved our problems has at least led to a tightening up of the rules.

I mentioned earlier the generous sponsorship from the National Forest Company for the Ratby Woodland event. We have over the last year been able to build closer links with the National Forest Company, to our mutual benefit. There are considerable opportunities for us as a club within the National Forest to enhance our sport and we need to take those opportunities. My thanks to Roy Denney who has been instrumental in building those links.

As most of you will be know, British Orienteering has a regional structure and we are part of the East Midlands Orienteering Association. I think it right that you should be aware of some of my concerns about our membership of EMOA. Concerns despite the fact that we have for a number of years supplied officers of that body. Currently our President is the Vice Chairman. Concerns that are shared by other committee members.

Membership of EMOA cost you money via a membership fee and by event levies. As Roger Edwards pointed out in his article in summer newsletter, for every senior competitor at a C4 event that has SI punching EMOA get £1. Apart from Ernie's excellent cartoons in the newsletter you might like to ask what you get for that money. I would remind you that when the pool of SI kit was set up a few years ago the clubs in the region contributed money, in our case out of reserve, to buy the kit. I am concerned that this year's EMOA AGM took place, despite strong representations from several members of the club, at the far north end of the region effectively disenfranchising members living in the south end of the region. I am concerned that EMOA were unable to stage this year's Compass Sport Cup heat after LOG's problems with Stapleford Woods. For the present we are stuck with our membership of EMOA. Perhaps next year we should all make a concerted effort to go to the EMOA AGM, wherever it might be, and ask the question. What is EMOA doing for me and were does it spend my money?

We have had a very good year as a club. Membership is up. The first time we have shown an increase in several years. We have managed to balance the books -just. and perhaps more importantly we have had we have had some very good sport.

As your Chairman I am very fortunate in having the support of a very strong and hard working committee and team of principal officers. My thanks to you all for the support that you have given me over the last year and all the countless hours of hard work you have put in on behalf of the club.

Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes my report for the last twelve months.

AGM 2007 – Chairman's Address

Recently one of my committee colleagues said “there is so much happening its almost impossible to keep up” Well ladies and gentlemen it is going to get busier over the next year.

The event programme will be as full as ever. We are hoping to run 5 C4 colour coded events and 2 C3 Badge events. Mark is well advanced with the 2008 Summer League Programme which will include some new areas, thanks in part to our Schools Partnership Programme and we shall see some sprint events in the League. The Winter League continues to be well supported and will continue to appear in the events programme in an extended format with more events in the autumn.

There are currently some early discussions taking place regarding a series of two or three sprint events in the East Midlands. Peter Hornsby is currently working on a map drawn to the correct sprint event specifications and whatever else happens I am sure that we will not be able to resist the temptation to use it.

The team who run the open days in the country parks is currently looking to expand what we do on those days and it may be possible to offer some longer and more interesting courses suitable for the more experienced Orienteers. If we can find the volunteers to help there is a possibility of doing more of these events.

A rough estimate shows that we will be running about 48 events during the next 12 months.

I have not yet mentioned, this evening, Permanent Orienteering Courses. During September we were able to establish with the help of Leicester City Council POC in Abbey, Knighton and Evington Parks. The design and funding is in place for a course in Martinshaw. We are currently in discussion with the National Forest Company and several local authorities regarding further POC in the area covered by the National Forest. If all our plans come to fruition we should by the end of next year have at least 10 POC in the area covered by the club. This has increased the workload in this area and I am pleased to welcome John Marriott to the club committee as Permanent Orienteering Course Co-ordinator.

The Development Team will be building on the schools partnership agreements that I mentioned earlier in the evening. These agreements do give the sport a real opportunity to introduce orienteering to a new generation and whilst for a club like ourselves they do not produce an instant hit of new members they do have, I believe, an important part to play in the long term growth of the sport. After the success of the event at Ratby

Woodlands we are currently giving some first thoughts to a similar event in another part of the area in perhaps the second half of 2008.

I hope you will see that there is a theme running through our current plans. One of development and recruitment. POC's, partnerships with schools, a presence at country park open days, events such as the Ratby Woodlands day in March are all aimed at bringing the sport to the attention of a wider audience. Within this theme of development we are also building closer links with Local Authorities and organisations like the National Forest Company. In the current climate where health and encouraging people towards physical activity are high on the political agenda Orienteering "ticks a lot of boxes" There is on offer money and resources. We have over the last 18 months been successful in obtaining some of these. We need to obtain more. Over the next two years Sport England is changing its funding methods. Money that was previously handed out at the centre to umbrella organisations like British Orienteering will in future become available at county level to clubs like ourselves. For what purposes and with what conditions attached as yet we do not know. We will be monitoring the situation closely.

We have in the club a small, a very small, and very dedicated band of mappers. As you are well aware maps are at the core of our sport We are very dependant on two or three people. We need more. Now is the time to volunteer!

Your committee is currently examining how to proceed with regard to SI kit. Although the club does own a very small amount, as I mentioned earlier we currently share the pooled EMOA kit and EMOA are looking at the economics of purchasing some more. The scheme has been very successful but it does have it limitations, not least a volunteer having to trek to the outposts of the empire (or DVO land as its usually known) to collect it and the increased use of SI is making this journey more and more frequent. If EMOA obtains more SI it may allow us to have some permanently based it the area. If not we shall have consider what provision we make for ourselves.

Looking to the longer term. On Saturday British Orienteering is holding a club conference and EGM . One of the purposes of the club conference is to discuss the Competition Structure of Orienteering. The draft proposals are currently on the British Orienteering website and I think they are quiet interesting and will be of benefit to the club. I don't propose discussing them tonight for if the conference follows the usual track record of major discussion for changes in the sport the end product will be nothing like the one we started the day with.

As I think many of you know we have been invited to host the 2009 British Middle Distance Championships. Subject to final access permissions the event will be held in Cademan and Thringstone Woods. Some of the ground work for the event has already

taken place and as Roger has already mentioned provision is being made in this year's budget for cost that we will incur over the next year, including mapping.

In 2010 there is the possibility of the club holding a National C2 event at Belvoir. We are currently in discussion with the estate over access, given that we would need a larger area than the one they normally generously allow us to use.

Two items before I finish. Firstly may I remind you about the club Annual Dinner and Presentation Evening on the 10th November in this very building. Mr Denny is eager to take your order and secondly the LEI Christmas Novelty Event on the Saturday 15th December organised by Santa and his (not so little) helpers. Again starting from here. Ladies and Gentlemen we are as a club in reasonable health, we have a busy year ahead and I hope that we all have good runs on well planned courses in beautiful forests and if its not too much to ask some dry weather.

Chris Phillips
Chairman