

MINUTES OF THE 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE ORIENTEERING CLUB HELD ON OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 2015 AT THE GLENFIELD PARISH ROOMS, GLENFIELD, LE3 8DL

Present; Bob Haskins, Roger Edwards, Iain Tebbutt, Ernie Williams, Laurie Fluck, Irene Marriott, Howard Alcock, Alan West, David Anderson, Roger Phillips, Chris Phillips, Ursula Williamson, Roy Denney, Alastair Paterson, Iain Phillips, Chris Bosley, Tracey Brookes, Ian Wilson, Hannah Cox, John Marriott, Andy Portsmouth, Simon Ford, Peter Leake, Steve Chafer, Kevin Gallagher, Peter Hornsby.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1) Apologies for absence; Alison Hardy, Mark Hardy, Wendy West, Matt White, Jane Dring-Morris, Simon Starkey.
- 2) The meeting was declared to be quorate (14 to be quorate - 26 present).
- 3) The minutes of the AGM held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were agreed to be a true record (proposed Simon Ford, seconded Ernie Williams).
- 4) Matters arising from the minutes; none.
- 5) Chairman's report: [see attached report.AGMChairreport15](#)
- 6) Matters arising from Chairman's report; none.
- 7) Development report:

We currently have two Level 2 coaches, we would prefer more Level 1 coaches to move up to Level 2.

We are improving our POC offering by adding start/finish plaques, increasing and simplifying downloads (including score courses for the British Schools score cup) and reducing the "jargon" of Orienteering terms. A "how to" video concerning POCs has been sent to BOF and we are co-ordinating our approach with them where possible. We may charge for downloads in the future (there are 2000 per year). A new POC at the Pavilion at Huncote is being set up, this being the second in Blaby CC (they also run Xplorer events very successfully).

We no longer have a club night co-ordinator and each club is being run on an individual basis. There has been some reduction in club night membership. Some students at Loughborough University have asked for support in setting up a student club night.

Following on from the GB Sport marketing meeting in December we have circulated a questionnaire to members.

The Club and Association Conference concentrated on ways to improve participation in the way that cycling etc. has done. Possibly different types of event and publicity may be needed for different age classes.

Some school mapping has been done recently. We are about to run a national course for teachers at the Outdoor Centre

8) Matters arising from development report

Simon Ford asked if the reduction in club night participation was a national trend. Roger Edwards replied that many successful clubs do not have club nights.

9) Club Captain's report:

Our senior team came 5<sup>th</sup> in the CompassSport cup heat at Sherwood Pines in March. Individuals need to take up more of the training offered by the club (club nights etc.) if we are ever to improve these results. On a brighter note the junior results were good with a win at the regional heat of the Yvette Baker Trophy and 5<sup>th</sup> at the National Final. The juniors also retained the Joan George Trophy and came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Peter Palmer Relays.

10) Treasurer's report.

The club had a surplus (£1,827) for the period 2014/2015. We bought a new download tent, a gazebo, 6 SI boxes and a rechargeable printer. Club night fees were down but donations from Gift Aid were up.

The budget for next year shows a break even situation with land access charges expected to increase and also the BOF levy and insurance.

The Independent Financial Examiner (Andrew Palmer) signed off the accounts and they were approved, proposed by Roy Denney and seconded by Peter Leake

11) Report of amendments to Club Standing Orders

- a) The Club Night co-ordinator will become the club night organiser.
- b) We need a new appendix 7 (protection of U16's)

12) Club membership fees for 2016.

It was proposed that there be no change and fees remain at £3 Juniors/£6 Seniors/ family/correspondent member ( proposed Roy Denney seconded Andy Portsmouth).

13) President's remarks and election of new chairman: [See attached presidents report LEI AGM 2015.](#)

Chris Phillips was elected as the new Chairman (proposed Bob Haskins seconded Laurie Fluck).

14) New Chairman's comments: [See attached New Chairman report 2015 AGM](#)

15) Election of Principal Officers

Vice Chair Bob Haskins (proposed Chris Phillips seconded Laurie Fluck)

Secretary Laurie Fluck ( “ Chris Phillips “ Bob Haskins)

Treasurer Roger Edwards (“ Bob Haskins “ Chris Phillips)

16) Election of Committee.

Steve Chafer, Kevin Bradley, Hanna Cox, Roy Denney, Jane Dring-Morris, Pete Leake, Chris Phillips, Roger Phillips, Alan West, Wendy West, Ursula Williamson, Ernie Williams, Ian Wilson, Mark Hardy, Laurie Fluck, Bob Haskins, Roger Edwards - Proposed by Chris Phillips seconded by Ernie Williams.

17) Adoption of Independent Financial Examiner

TBA

18) Election of President and Honorary Members

President Ernie Williams

Honorary Members Sam Lattaway, Peter Tyldesley, Catherine Cox and John Cooke

(proposed by Ernie Williams seconded by Chris Phillips).

19) Any Urgent Business

None

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

LEI AGM 26/10/15

## Chairman's Report

I usually start this report by saying that the Club has had a good year with excellent events and activities, and this is the case again. The key word for at least the last three years has been continuity. There has been a dependability about the leagues, the club nights and EML events that we have put on. There have been other things of course, our Level A events both locally and in Wales, and our entry into EMUL Urban events in Ashby and Loughborough. Continuity does give a sense of comfort, but that's not to say that making changes is not good or desirable. The committee has also been quite stable for a period now, with many positions being filled by the same people, but this AGM will see changes, as you may have seen from the officer nominations in a recent Mailchamp email update.

It has been another successful year for the Club with many excellent events and activities, not all of which can be reported tonight, and I intend to concentrate on some highlights, and also a few more general aspects of the Club and the sport. Another thing that has not changed is that I have enlisted some help from the Fixtures and Development Co-ordinators and the Club Captain to put some detail into their areas.

We have continued to provide a high level of events and activities, not just in number, but also in quality. Our Summer and Winter Leagues continue at a high intensity, and we have produced our normal number of Level C East Midlands League events, plus two rounds of the East Midlands Urban League which took place at Ashby and Loughborough North. Club night activity also continues with great success at Groby, Glenfield and Ashby. The total of our events and activities continues to equate to around three a week throughout the year. This is a great achievement and demonstrates a huge commitment by many members of the club.

As ever, and for the final time as Chairman, I'd once again like to say thank you to pretty much everybody in the Club as we would not be able to run our events and activities without you. This extends to Organisers, Planners Controllers, Coaches, Mappers and everyone who helps at our events. This is the reason that we can run such a large programme and a reason why we are a successful Club. The generosity of everyone with their help has made the club Chairmanship an easier job than it could have been.

This year the Club Championships took place at Shellbrook, and we held the presentations at Ravenstone Village Hall, which was very suitable, using caterers that have done a few events for us now. There was an excellent turnout and congratulations go to Howard Alcock and Hannah Cox who are our 2015 Club Champions. We again used online entry which had worked really well when tried in 2014, and the timed starts meant that we were all cleared up on the site before the buffet and presentations. It was good to see many club members and some friends at the social and presentations.

Every year we take part in the Compassport Cup, and for this year we went to Sherwood Pines in March. We had a good result but sadly still didn't quite qualify for Final. I'll leave the Club Captain to say how close we came, but it is our ambition to get there one day.

Our accounts will show that we have made a surplus over the past financial year. Our Treasurer, Roger Edwards will explain the position when he presents the accounts and next year's budget in his

report. We are indebted to Roger for looking after our finances for yet another year and keeping us on track with expenditure. Since the Club is now running with Community Amateur Sports Club Status from HMRC, there are a number of benefits to the Club and ways of improving our income, which we are achieving thanks to Roger's financial skills.

The Club's Development and Training programme continues to improve and expand and Roger Edwards, our Development Co-ordinator, will say something on this a bit later. There is to be another Regional training day at the end of this week, organised by the EMOA Development Officer (Chris Phillips) and although there has not been a Controller/Planner Conference in the past twelve months, they are interesting and useful, and will surely continue in future years.

At a Club level, the regular Club Nights (plus a social element) are proving popular with a regular attendance. There is a Monday night club for Juniors at Groby, Ashby Map Runners meet on Wednesday evenings and the regular club night on Thursdays continues at the Glenfield Sports Centre, with the addition here of some of the older Juniors.

The Juniors continue to have great success and our sizeable and talented group is growing and has a wide age range. They have enjoyed successes at the Yvette Baker Trophy and the Peter Palmer Relays and Roger Phillips, as Club captain, will expand on this area and tell you about their activities. At the Club Championships each year we announce the recipient of the Rising Star trophy and congratulations go to Harrington Leake as this year's winner of the trophy. We should also congratulate Hannah Cox, who has represented British Orienteering at the Junior World Championships.

The Club presentation dinner in March at our current regular venue of Kirby Muxloe Golf Club was well attended. During the evening, the Club's champions are presented with their trophies and we also award the President's Salver for outstanding work over the last year or two and the Tiger Trophy to someone who has worked tirelessly for the Club over a number of years. This year's very worthy recipients were respectively Tracey Brookes and Birthe Richter-Wilson.

We have a number of ways of communicating with our members and these have all been continuing busily over the past 12 months. We have the website, the Facebook page and send out mailings with Mail Chimp and also do a bulk posting in August. There has also been experimentation with a Twitter presence. However, the method most favoured by the membership is still through LEI News. Once again we have had 3 excellent editions of the newsletter edited by Wendy and Alan West, and also thanks are due to the contributors, as there has been a wonderfully wide range of items. This is an award winning magazine and for another year is a recipient of the Compassport Newsletter Awards.

I have continued to be the Club representative on the East Midlands Orienteering Association committee. A full committee was elected at the AGM in September, looking very similar to the previous year, including John Hurley as Chairman who said he would only take over for one year. The functions of the committee include fixtures registration and co-ordination, development, coaching support and the East Midlands Junior Squad, which has now been taken over by Dai Bedwell

At a National level, the Club and Association Conference took place recently in Stratford-on-Avon and we were represented by Roger Edwards. The Chief Executive, Mike Hamilton now sends out regular emails to Club officials to keep us in touch with what is happening and is of importance regarding governance, safety and insurance issues etc. Club members continue to serve on some of the national committees and subcommittees.

There are many things to come in the future that we are organising, some imminent and some longer term. These will be revealed later in the agenda with the help of Chris Phillips, our Fixtures Co-ordinator. We have recently been running a simple questionnaire for members and parents to comment on the Club and the events that we put on. Hopefully, this will produce some interesting data and this idea was suggested at a marketing evening that was put on for club officials. But also, please contact one of us personally if you would like to discuss any issues or ideas or would like to get more involved with the running of the Club. Volunteers will always be welcome.

It seems to me that we have an excellent year of orienteering to look forward to in 2016 and beyond, and with your help we will be able to achieve everything in our timetable. Finally, I would just like to say personally that the help of everyone, especially the officers and committee has been much appreciated over the last 4 years that I have been Chairman. Iain Tebbutt is also stepping down after 4 years as Vice Chair and his help and support has been much appreciated. It has certainly made the task easier than it might have been, and it has also been a very enjoyable experience.

**LEI O. C. 2015 AGM Agenda item 13:  
The President's Remarks and the Election of the Chairman**

It is with real pleasure that I have this opportunity to give a 'Vote of Thanks' to the Officers of the Club - Chairman Bob Haskins, Vice Chairman Iain Tebbutt, Treasurer Roger Edwards and Secretary Laurie Fluck - who have, together with the members of the Committee, once again navigated us safely and in good financial health through the past year - it is this committed group of orienteers that enables our Club to be second to none within the UK.

Thanks must also go to those who have acted in whatever way as officials, coaches, mappers, assistants and helpers - without the very large amount of work and effort that often goes unseen the large range of events and activities would not take place so regularly throughout 'our patch' of Leicestershire, Rutland, and the northern half of Northamptonshire and, occasionally, much further afield.

Two items that have been a feature throughout the past year and will continue to do so into the forthcoming twelve months and beyond, are 'Volunteers and Volunteering' together with 'Event Safety and Welfare'.

Our sport would not be able to function without the active and whole-hearted support of Club members and at the upper reaches of British Orienteering the Chief Executive, the Chair and the Board of the Federation, and the Chair and the members of Events and Competitions Committee, are all determined to ensure that recognition is given not only for the time and effort provided but also that being a volunteer is recognised for the important part it plays in the day-to-day life of every 'O' Club and, in our neck of the woods, particularly within LEI.

Whilst away in the Lakes I was invited to a Club Social with a Guest Speaker and, after Meat and Potato Pie with Mushy Peas and Pickled Red Cabbage and a very enlightening half hour with slides and video about a being a Volunteer at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, I thanked the Guest Speaker for consistently mentioning the value that needs to be placed upon volunteers, though it did take a different tangent when one of those earwiggling nearby pointed out that she hoped the Club would further develop the 'Thank You' to Organisers by handing over a bottle of good wine at the same time as saying the words - I must admit to telling all who were listening that the LEI Treasurer makes sure that a 'Free Run Voucher' redeemable at a future Club Event is made available to Organisers, Planners and Controllers, though often a goodly number remain unclaimed!

For those of you who do not read the informative and stimulating Minutes of Board Meetings - OK sometimes not too stimulating but definitely informative! - those for 19th September this year had one item that will affect a significant number of British Orienteering members throughout the UK, especially if they organise, plan or control any registered Event at all Levels from A to D, and these are amendments that had been proposed for certain sections of the Appendices to the Rules:

*"The amendments, in the main, are for all Event Officials at all Levels of Events to have attended an Event Safety & Welfare Workshop. This should ensure that:*

- *all Event Officials are aware of the need for a high level of awareness of safety and welfare issues*
- *the need for the full completion of Risk Assessment documentation*

*In order that British Orienteering, clubs and associations are as fully legally covered as is possible in the event of an accident to a participant at any registered event.*

*After a brief discussion the Board agreed and ratified these changes."*

As you will all realise, it is now essential that Event Safety and Welfare Workshops are made widely available and Chris Phillips, EMOA's Regional Development Coordinator, will this coming weekend be holding a full morning ES&W session as part of the EMOA Training Day at Charnwood College with, I would think, other sessions to follow, certainly through the next year and beyond.

Speaking of which, it is now the time for me, on behalf of you all, to repeat our thanks to Bob Haskins for the four years during which he has been the Chairman of our Club, and to ask you to welcome Chris Phillips as he has been formally proposed and seconded as our Club Chairman for 2015-2016 and to wish him 'Good Luck!' for the forthcoming year.

Chris, now it is over to you for item 14 - The 'New Chairman's Remarks'.

Ernie Williams  
26th October 2015



## **New Chairman's Comments.**

Firstly my thanks to Bob for all the hard work that he has done over the last 4 years, much of it behind the scenes and unknown to most of our members. I think I should remind everybody that not only has he been chairman for the last 4 years, he has also previously been Vice Chairman and Club Secretary. That is a lot of work over, by my calculation, at least 10 years. So very many thanks and I am very pleased that you are staying on in a senior role on the committee.

We have over the last 8 to 10 years become, by the measures applied by British Orienteering and Sport England, a very successful club. That success has not come by accident. It has been delivered by a lot of hard work and careful planning, forethought and meeting the challenges as they have arisen.

I would like, for a few minutes to talk about some of the issues and challenges that I think are facing the club over the next few years.

It is some time since the club's committee took a comprehensive look at our programmes and activities. It is, I think, time for us to do that again. Whilst everything appears to be running very smoothly, it is very easy to get complacent. As Roger Edwards, wearing his Development Co-ordinator hat, has mentioned, you the members of the club, have recently been asked to complete a survey to indicate what direction you would like the club to go and what events and activities you would like. The results of that survey will be studied by the committee and will form a core part of our review of the club. I hope that we will be able to publish our conclusions in the Spring 2016 newsletter.

Many of us who have been involved in the running of events, sitting on committees, producing maps and all the myriad tasks that are needed to keep a club of our size functioning are, whilst we are maturing like fine wines, starting to head towards our sell by date. We have always been, as a club, very good at bringing forward new and younger members to take over key jobs but, for instance, as every one of the principle officers of the club are in their mid to late sixties; we do need to be more proactive in this area. The same applies to event officials. We now have a number of younger members who have stepped up to be Level A and B officials, having gained experience within our Level C & D events but we have to replace them with next generation of volunteers.

One of my tasks as your Chairman will be recruitment and development of the next generation of key volunteers for the club.

We have, as club, benefited over the last decade or so from members who have taken early retirement and have used their leisure to volunteer for the club - well it beats decorating or gardening. With the rise in retirement age it is likely that we will not have the same workforce at our disposal and we may have to look at other ways of delivering our events and activities.

One area that is likely to be hit hard by the reduction in the number of volunteers available is mapping. We have a very dedicated band of mappers who for a number of years have been keeping our mapping stocks up to date. The problem with mapping is that it is a fairly slow process and lots of time is required to produce or update a map and we have benefited greatly from Roy, Don and the two Peter's being able to spend lots of time mapping. The Events Sub Committee have been looking at this issue recently and have come to the conclusion that we almost certainly, in the near future, will have to outsource some of our mapping, particularly for events on our larger areas, to professional mappers.

As the Treasurer has indicated the club finances are strong and healthy. However there are one or two black financial clouds gathering on the horizon. By the end of 2017 the sport as a whole will see a significant reduction in the amount of external funding it receives from government bodies like Sport England. As I have already mentioned we face the prospect of spending more money on mapping. Changes in some of the technology that we use for timing are likely, in the next 2 to 3 years, requiring the club to spend money in that area too. Given some forward thinking and planning by your committee that is achievable but it will inevitably mean an increase in event fees in the not too distant future.

As I said at the beginning we are a very strong and successful club and I am very confident that we will be able to meet the challenges of the coming years and continue to enjoy our wonderful sport.