

MINUTES OF THE 47TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE ORIENTEERING CLUB HELD ON OCTOBER 31ST 2016 AT THE GLENFIELD PARISH ROOMS, GLENFIELD, LE3 8DL

Present; Bob Haskins, Roger Edwards, Iain Tebbutt, Ernie Williams, Laurie Fluck, Alan West, Wendy West, David Anderson, Roger Phillips, Chris Phillips, Ursula Williamson, Alastair Paterson, Iain Phillips, Chris Bosley, Tracey Brookes, John Marriott, Andy Portsmouth, Simon Ford, Peter Leake, Steve Chafer, Peter Hornsby, Mark Hardy, Simon Starkey, Dave Toach, Liz Heaton, Euan Tebbutt, Jane Dring-Morris.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1) Apologies for absence; Alison Hardy, Matt White, Roy Denny, Ed Young, Mike Hamilton, Ian Wilson, Di Ford, Anna Barber, Rachel Simonetti.
- 2) The meeting was declared to be quorate (14 to be quorate - 27 present).
- 3) The minutes of the AGM held on Monday 26th October 2015 were agreed to be a true record (proposed Andy Portsmouth, seconded Simon Ford).
- 4) Matters arising from the minutes; none.
- 5) Chairman's report: [see attached report "Chairs report to AGM 2016"](#)
- 6) Matters arising from Chairman's report; None
- 7) Treasurer's report and Budget for the coming year:

The accounts have been approved by the Independent Financial Examiner, Ian Chafer. There was a surplus of £608 for the year with a small loss on events outweighed by a surplus on other activities, including £2K from gift aid. Event costs have increased from £9K last year to £13K this year. Club nights break even; POC's cost us but have been revamped and will be less costly in future. Schools mapping makes money particularly when done on a "travel costs" basis but do remove mappers from our mapping pool. RE pointed out that equipment is not in the accounts and is insured at £26K with a further £20 K in permanent courses and unknown value of Intellectual Property/stock of surveyed maps and trained people. The Budget for next year shows a near break-even (the three National events in 2016 had larger entries than expected and therefore generated more profit – there are none in 2017). Discretionary spending will be reduced to cope with increased cost pressures. The levy has gone up by 50p since we set a £7 entry fee for Level C events. The Committee will be looking at ways to enhance the travel scheme.

- 8) Matters arising from development report:

There was some discussion of SI air cards, some of which have been purchased at a discount rate to allow club members to try them.

- 9) Approval of accounts:

This was proposed by Andy Portsmouth, seconded by Chris Bosley and accepted unanimously.

10) Report of amendment to Club Standing Orders.

Chris Phillips proposed (seconded by Roger Edwards) that the following paragraph should be added to section 4.3 of the club's constitution: "All members agree to abide by the British Orienteering Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. All individual members are deemed to have read, understood and assented to the British Orienteering Code of ethics and Conduct ("Code") and as such recognise and adhere to the principles and responsibilities embodied in the Code". This was agreed unanimously.

11) Club membership fees for 2018:

It was proposed by Roger Edwards (and seconded by Chris Phillips) that there be no change and fees remain at £3 Juniors/£6 Seniors/ family/correspondent member.

12) President's remarks and election of new chairman: [See attached report "President's Remarks EAW 31-10-2016"](#).

Chris Phillips was re-elected as the Chairman by popular approval.

13) Chairman's comments for the future: [See attached report "Future Plans 2017"](#)

14) Election of Principal Officers

Vice Chair Bob Haskins (proposed Roger Phillips seconded Alastair Paterson)
Secretary Jane Dring-Morris (proposed Chris Phillips seconded Alastair Paterson)
Treasurer Roger Edwards (proposed Chris Phillips seconded Ursula Williamson)
All accepted unanimously.

15) Election of Committee.

Steve Chafer, Roy Denney, Pete Leake, Roger Phillips, Alan West, Wendy West, Ursula Williamson, Ernie Williams, Ian Wilson, Mark Hardy, Laurie Fluck, Iain Phillips, Liz Heaton, Anna Barber - Proposed by Chris Phillips seconded by Ernie Williams and accepted unanimously.

16) Adoption of Independent Financial Examiner

Ian Chafer was proposed by Roger Edwards, seconded by Alan West and accepted unanimously

17) Election of President and Honorary Members

President Ernie Williams
Honorary Members Sam Lattaway, Peter Tyldesley, Catherine Cox and John Cooke
All accepted by popular approval.

There being no Urgent Business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

AGM 2016. Chairman's report.

As always it has been a very busy year with rather a lot of activities and events having taken place over the last year and so to keep the meeting reasonably brief I am only going to report, as it were, on the headlines.

After the 2015 AGM the Club's Executive Committee spent some time thinking about and redrafting the club's Development Plan. A synopsis of this was published in the Summer 2016 Newsletter and the full version is on the club web site. Since then the committee and the principal officers have been looking at ways to implement the plan.

In March of this year we gathered at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club for our Annual Dinner and Awards Evening. Our guest speaker was Mike Hamilton, Chief Executive of British Orienteering. Mike had some very complimentary things to say about the club including that we were reckoned as one of the top clubs in the country. Of course we knew that but were too modest to say so.

However before we get too carried away I would like to quote our Club Captain:-

"2016 is a familiar tale of poor performing LEI adults and top performing juniors. Hopefully after 5 years of junior success, these top performing juniors will return as top performing adults. Junior success has not been an accident, recruiting new juniors into the LEI Junior Squad has been done via the hard work of the Monday Club Night"

Which brings me neatly to the subject of Club Nights. These are continuing at three locations, Ashby, Groby and Glenfield. Numbers attending are virtually static with Ashby and Glenfield having their core of regular adult attendees. There is a turnover of members at the Groby club on Mondays as the older teenagers leave and are replaced by younger primary school children. A lot of effort is put in by the three club night coordinators and the club's coaching team to make them happen.

To return to the comments by the Club Captain. In March we competed in the Compass Sport Cup heat at Haywood Warren with 59 club members attending. Thank you all for turning out that day. We came 5th out of 6 competing teams, 267 points behind the winning club OD. Our best placed 25 runners count. So we only need to score another 11 points each! So lots of hard training at Club Nights please, before the 2017 heat. As the Club Captain is wont to point out, perhaps our problem is too much post event socialising!

In February we hosted the British Night Championships at Cademan. Those of you who were helping are probably aware that a significant numbers of competitors turned up expecting a easy run in an East Midlands park. Thanks to Steve Edgar's excellent courses they didn't get it, with many of the top competitors having really tough runs. The entry was on of the largest for the event in recent years. There was

a superb atmosphere during the evening and the start had an appearance of a softly lit fairy grotto surrounded by the pitch black of the forest. I never thought I would say that at an LEI AGM! Thank you to all those who helped deliver a really first class event.

In February we transferred our permanent orienteering courses maps to the British Orienteering download facility. Since then we have had 4,000 downloads. Maps have been used at nearly all our courses. Jane Dring-Morris who organises the POC wardens could use some more volunteers.

April saw the regional heat of the Yvette Baker Trophy. 25 of our juniors competed for the club and for the 5th year in a row we became Regional Champions. Well done the juniors. At the national final in July down in Happy Herts. land we were 7th out of 13 teams. Only 36 points behind the winning team.

18 Events, 770 starts, an average attendance of 43 and £823 paid in event levies. Just a few statistics from the 2016 Summer League. And a very wet summer league it was! One of my personal memories is at Watermead, wading knee deep in water to reach a control and going back later to collect the control when the water was nearly waist high. Thank you to every one who organised and planned. I feel a special thanks is due to Ursula who because of permission and vegetation problems planned the Score Cup at three different venues. Thank you to Bob for coordinating the league.

Early autumn was junior competition time. Starting with the Peter Palmers in early September, based at Groby Community College and attracting an entry double that of 2015 it was a fantastic weekend. Although I must admit that when my alarm went off at 3.45am on Sunday morning "fantastic weekend" was not what I said. When the subject of the club hosting the Peter Palmers was first mooted a couple of years ago I was rather doubtful about it. On reflection I feel that, probably because it was so different from normal orienteering, it was, from many aspects, one of the best events we have done. I of course, on behalf of the club, need to thank a lot of people who put in a very hard shift that weekend. Firstly thanks to Iain Tebbutt, the planner and Mick Lucking who controlled the event. They went out at 2.15 am to put the controls out. When I asked why, Mick said it seem like a good idea at the time. Thank you to Ursula Williamson for organising and spending a huge amount of time "sorting out" parents and other adults. Thanks to Tracey and Andy for masterminding the catering. I am still waiting for a photo of Andy in a pinny to appear on his facebook page! Thank you to our juniors for acting as hosts and general gofor's on the Saturday evening and all the adult members of the club who turned out over the weekend to help.

Next up in early October was the British Schools Score Championships at Bagworth. The Development team took this as an opportunity in the year before the event, to engage with schools in North West Leicestershire and a number of events and training sessions were held including the NW Leicestershire Primary Schools Championships which attracted an entry of over 450.

The British Schools itself attracted an entry of nearly 400. Iain Tebbutt once again was the planner. I was the organiser. This is an event where lots of children received prizes. Pushing a trolley around Tesco full of 180 bars of chocolate, and 28 assorted boxes of sweets produced some strange looks and I don't think the cashier at the checkout was totally convinced by my explanation of why I was buying this rather large amount of confectionery. The sun shone, the children enjoyed themselves and club members Daisy Rennie, Charlie Rennie, Ethan Tebbutt and Finn Lydon all won their age class. Unfortunately the day was slight marred by the attitude of some parents and teachers who could not grasp that Orienteering has a set of rules that we are supposed to follow and also we were not helped by antics of one member of the BSOA Committee. Again thank you to everybody who helped - you make this club chairman's job very easy.

The Membership report indicates that membership numbers have stayed more or less static. That is not quite the correct picture. Each year about 10% of our membership does not renew, usually for very good reason. So what the membership report for this year does not show is that, in order to for the membership numbers to remain fairly static in the last year, we have recruited 21 new members. I intend returning to the subject of membership recruiting later in the evening.

This year our Club Mark accreditation was up for renewal and Alison Hardy took on the mammoth task of gathering all the required information needed and putting that together in some reasonable coherent format. We have been advised informally that our reaccreditations will go through and we are just awaiting the formal acknowledgment. Many thanks to Alison for all the work that she has put in on this on the last year.

Congratulations to Iain Phillips who completed his level 2 coaching qualification during the year.

As a club we have supported the work of the East Midlands Orienteering Association over the last year. Bob Haskins is the club delegate to the Association's committee. Ursula Williamson is the Regional Fixtures Secretary and I am the Regional Development Coordinator, so we are well represented on the Association's committee and I would like to think that the three of us provide a firm basis for ensuring that the Region does its job of delivering support to the member clubs.

The regional junior squad, EMJOS is very active. The majority of its members are from LEI. Again this is a reflection of the success that Birthe and the team have on Monday nights. Earlier in the year at the request of John Hurley we appointed a link person between the club and EMJOS. Julie Ferris, who is one of our coaches involved with EMJOS, agreed to take on this role and we now have a much better idea as to EMJOS's programme of activities.

The club's executive committee has met four times during the year and the Events Sub Committee and the Development Sub Committee have met at regular intervals throughout the last 12 months. My thanks to the committee for all the work that has been put in over the last year. It makes my job as chairman very much easier having the support of such a good committee.

The treasurer will report in due course on the club's financial health, which looks good. One new innovation this year has been accepting card payments at events. We are still looking at ways of improving the system and as yet have not solved the problem of using it at events where there is a poor phone signal. One of the important strands in the club's life is the Newsletter; I should say our award winning Newsletter. I have almost forgotten how many times we have won awards but I know it is several. A high quality newsletter is important to the club for many reasons. It is an effective communication tool within the club and it is also a signal to non club members and the outside world that we are an organisation of quality. As a club we owe a very great vote of thanks to Alan and Wendy.

As always at an AGM there are going to be some changes in post holders. Laurie, after a fairly long stint as Club Secretary, is retiring but will be staying on the committee as Permissions Secretary. Permissions Secretary is one of those key behind the scenes jobs that if it was not well done there would be no orienteering. Many thanks Laurie for all the work you have done.

Our Junior Captain Hannah has relinquished her role on moving to University. The committee were able to say goodbye and thank you to Hannah at the August meeting. Hannah has been a first class Captain and a wonderful role model for our junior members and we wish her well in the future.

Our President will shortly be going into hospital for a new pair of go faster legs. Ernie, we wish you all the best and hope it will not be long before you are running round the forest again.

Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes the Chairman's report.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

Something said yesterday whilst I was 'stewarding' for a four hour session at The Big Textile Show at The Kube near Oadby set me thinking "How appropriate for the AGM tomorrow tonight!"

One of the exhibitors, noticing that I wasn't moving around much and limping when I did, asked me what I had been doing, so I told her how I had participated on Saturday at my Orienteering Club's Championships over, for me, quite a distance and when asked the distance I replied "Just over 7 kilometres" and after the follow-up question I said "Just over 86 minutes" to which came the response "That is really jolly good!". Being a somewhat modest, shy and retiring type I did have to immediately say "Yes, but I was last on the course I was on by several minutes"!

Still, when one reflects on the past 12 months activities the phrase "That is really jolly good!" definitely fits. Once again we have hosted a wide range and large number of events from the local to the national, including the British Night Championships and two of the big annual events for young people, who competed and brought real credit to their Clubs, including our own, and who will, I hope, continue to participate in our sport for years, even decades, to come.

Club Officers and members continue to play an active part as members of Regional and National Committees, together with organising, planning, controlling, coaching and mapping throughout the year – without this dedicated input of enthusiasm for and knowledge of our sport hundreds of people of all ages and levels of fitness would not be able to develop skills, to participate locally and regionally, and to compete nationally, and for some internationally, at the highest levels of our sport.

It is this opportunity to say a most appreciative and heartfelt 'Thank You' to all of the members who have played their part in whatever way to make our Club both distinctive and distinguished, that I welcome this evening – it is definitely appreciated for without a supportive and determined membership we would not be able to enjoy such a wide and varied selection of events, coaching, training, and social opportunities - all in all 'That really is jolly good' and long may it continue to be so in our very special 'neck of the woods'!

It is now the time for me, on behalf of you all, to thank our Club Chairman for all that he has done on behalf of our Club during the period 2015-2016 and to welcome him to continue as our Chairman for 2016-2017 as he has been formally Proposed and Seconded - "Over to you and 'Good Luck' Chris!"

Ernie Williams, 31st October 2016

AGM 2016 Chairman's Future Plans.

Looking forward to 2017 I am tempted to say it will be a fairly quiet year, perhaps I should say, there will be a change of emphasis.

The events programme will follow its usual pattern of winter and summer league, and events in the EMOA league and the EMOA Urban League. Other than the East Midlands Championships at Wakerley next month we have no major events in the next year so that gives us some capacity to do other things. The 2016/2017 winter league has already started with 7 events still remaining. The 2017 summer League programme will be published shortly. Our two EMUL events have been nominated for inclusion in the UKUL.

We will of course be taking part in the Compass Sport Cup, the Yvette Baker Trophy and we will have teams in the Peter Palmer Junior Team Relays.

One of the tasks identified in the Club's Development Plan is to increase club membership. To this end the Development team are running a series of Saturday events in North West Leicestershire aimed at young people and their parents. This is being developed through our schools contacts and aims to build on the work already done in the area. By involving parents there is an expectation that they will become regular orienteers and ultimately members of the club. Other clubs, notably SYO, have tried this model with a very high degree of success.

The club committee will be asked to consider other ways that we might increase membership.

Two other elements from the Development Plan that will come under the spotlight in the next 12 months are the BOOST programme and event official training.

There is a commitment within the Development Programme to change the BOOST programme from its current occasional and adhoc programme to a regular programmed activity within the club's training programme. This is an area that the Development Team will be asked to look at.

In the area of event official training, firstly early in the New Year we will be running an Event Safety and Welfare workshop for new members of the club. I would remind everybody that as of 1st January 2017 completing this module becomes mandatory for all event officials. Kevin Bradley will be organising a course for club members who want to be part of the download team at events.

There is also within the Development Plan a commitment, by the club, to maintain and develop its existing programme of Club Nights. As I indicated earlier the Ashby and Glenfield Club Nights have a dedicated group of attendees but we struggle to attract additional members to these two evenings. Why, I don't really know and it is an area that we really need to address in the coming year.

As I mentioned earlier Hannah Cox has relinquished her role as Junior Captain. After discussion with the Club Captain I have invited Anna Barber to be our next Junior Captain. I am delighted to report that Anna has agreed to take on the role.

The Treasurer has mentioned we continue to face pressure from rising costs. Whilst we are currently in a healthy financial situation the club committee will need to exercise vigilance in this area in the coming months. One area that we will have to examine is increasing income from gift aid. This is becoming increasingly important in balancing our books.

One area of concern that I do have and wish to share with you is the availability of areas for orienteering. In the past orienteering has been one of the very few users of forest areas and we have benefited from what effectively has been an open house situation. That has now changed. Many of our popular areas, Beacon Hill and Fineshade come to mind, now see other sporting and commercial activities on many weekends in the year. In some cases we are being priced out of the market with commercial companies charging double what we charge in orienteering and clearly generating a higher income. This means that these companies can afford the higher access fees that landowners are charging. We are fortunate in having the National Forest on our doorstep and an active access officer in Roy Denney and have so far have been able to cope, but if you find that events seem to be returning to the same area more often that formally this will probably be the reason.

Roy is away in New Zealand at present, but wearing his Social Secretary hat he was most insistent that I remind you that the club's Annual Dinner and Awards Evening takes place on Saturday 4th March 2017 at Kirby Muxloe Golf club.

Looking forward to 2018 it is our turn to host the Midlands Championships which is a Level A event. We have secured permission to use the Belvoir Estate on Sunday 18th March 2018. As that event is part of the UKOL we have been asked to put on a high grade event the day before, which will also be part of UKOL. The club has commissioned a map of Leicester Castle and the Newarke and the working proposition is that the Saturday event will be a Level B sprint with elite classes that have World Ranking Status. British Orienteering has agreed to recommend the event to IOF and we are now awaiting the IOF decision which will take another 12 months to arrive.

We are a very strong and successful club but even given the challenging times in which we live I am very confident that we will be able to meet the challenges of the coming years and continue to enjoy our wonderful sport.