



Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Leicestershire Orienteering Club held on Monday 30th October 2017 at the Glenfield Parish Rooms, Stamford St., Glenfield, LE3 8DL

Present:

Chris Phillips, Ursula Williamson, Jane Dring-Morris, Steve Chafer, Kevin Gallagher, Chris Bosley, Dave Toach, Laurie Fluck, Bob Haskins, Alastair Paterson, Ethan Tebbutt, Iain Tebbutt, Wendy West, Roger Edwards, David Anderson, Peter Chick, Alan West, Anna Barber, Andy Portsmouth, Steve Edgar, Ernie Williams, John Marriott, Peter Hornsby, Peter Leake, Liz Heaton, Roger Phillips, Simon Starkey

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: Simon Ford, Iain Phillips, Ian Wilson, Roy Denney, Maureen Webb, Tracey Brooke, Rachel Simonetti
2. The meeting was declared to be quorate (13 to be quorate, 27 present)
3. The minutes of the AGM held on Monday 31st October 2016 were agreed to be a true record
4. Matters arising from the minutes: none
5. Chairman's Report on the past year: see attached report "Chairs report to AGM 2017"
6. Matters arising from Chairman's report: none
7. Treasurer's report and Budget for coming year:
 - We made a small loss overall: income for 2017 was £38,106 and expenses were £38,396, the net loss being £291. Taking into account the accumulated fund brought forward from 2016, the accumulated fund carried forward is £11,556.
 - No change to club entry and club night fees are proposed
8. Matters arising from Treasurer's report: none
9. Independent Financial Examiner's report: the accounts have been approved by the independent financial examiner, Ian Chafer
10. Approval of accounts: proposed by Dave Toach, seconded by Chris Bosley
11. Club membership fees for 2019: no change proposed - £3 for juniors and £6 for every other membership class. Proposed by Roger Edwards, seconded by Peter Leake
12. Amendments to the Leicestershire Orienteering Club Constitution and reports of Amendments to the Standing Orders: Chris Phillips proposed (seconded by Roger Edwards) that the following paragraphs should be added to the end of section 4.3 of the club's constitution:

"1. The Leicestershire Orienteering Club agrees to adopt the up-to-date British Orienteering Policies, Procedures, Rules and Regulations as published on the British Orienteering website.

2. All individuals involved in orienteering through Leicestershire Orienteering Club, in any capacity, are deemed to have assented to and abide by and adhere to the British Orienteering Policies, Procedures, Rules and Regulations as published on the British Orienteering website.

3. Both the Leicestershire Orienteering Club and its members agree to abide by the final outcome of any disciplinary and appeal proceedings."

Proposal accepted, 5 abstentions, 1 against
13. President's remarks and election of Chairman: see attached report "LEI 2017 Presidential Remarks"
Chris Phillips was unanimously re-elected as the Chairman

14. Chairman's report on plans for the forthcoming year: see attached report "Future Plans 2018"
15. Election of Principal Officers (Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer):
 - Vice chair Steve Chafer (proposed Chris Phillips, seconded Alastair Paterson)
 - Secretary Jane Dring-Morris (proposed Roger Phillips, seconded Steve Chafer)
 - Treasurer Roger Edwards (proposed Ursula Williamson, seconded Iain Phillips)All accepted unanimously.
16. Election of committee: Anna Barber, Roy Denney, Laurie Fluck, Bob Haskins, Mark Hardy, Liz Heaton, Peter Leake, Roger Phillips, Iain Phillips, Alan West, Wendy West, Ernie Williams, Ursula Williamson, Ian Wilson. All accepted unanimously.
17. Election/adoption of Independent Financial Examiner: Ian Chafer is to be asked to continue. Proposed by the Chair and seconded by Ursula Williamson. Accepted unanimously.
18. Election of President and Honorary Members: President Ernie Williams proposed by Chris Phillips, accepted unanimously. Honorary members: Sam Lattaway, Peter Tyldesley and Catherine Cox. All accepted unanimously. John Cooke is a BOF member and so cannot be an honorary member.
19. Open forum:
 - Roger Phillips: The Christmas Novelty Event is to be a "North Pole Score" at Aylestone Meadows with the social at the Black Horse afterwards.
 - Iain Tebbutt: our turn to host the British Sprints has come round quickly. Chris advised that it should be once every 10 years but this is skewed by multi day events and areas who have "opted out" because they can't get enough volunteers.
 - Pete Leake: what time of day are the park event planned for? Chris confirmed they are planned to take place on Saturday afternoons over approximately 8 weeks finishing with a level C event somewhere like Bradgate Park.
 - Roger Phillips: what happened to NOC's satellite clubs? Chris advised that commitment from members was a problem and that volunteers pulled out when they realised what was involved.
 - Steve Edgar: how do we make money from SI Air? Roger confirmed that we do this by hiring out dibbers to participants at events.
 - Andy Portsmouth: suggested that we should have a replacement system/budget where si boxes are regularly taken out of service and replaced by new ones. The officers reported that the current system is that we very occasionally replace boxes at the end of their life but there is no specific budget or reserve.
20. Meeting closed at 9:25pm

LEI AGM 2017. Chairman's Report

As always there is a lot to report and to keep the meeting reasonably brief I am only going to report on some of the major events and activities of the last year.

As you will have seen from Jane's membership report we have had a drop in numbers over the last year. From memory this is the biggest drop we have had in the last 10 years. We normally do have a turn over of members each year but usually arrivals balance the departures. This has not been the case during the last year. Over the last 10 years the East Midlands region has suffered a 40% drop in membership. We have, until this year managed to buck the trend, with club membership numbers remaining reasonable static. Looking at the list of leavers there are good reasons for most of them going. Some have moved away and moved to other clubs, some have tried orienteering and found it not to their taste, for others old age has taken its toll and they have hung up their compass. Never the less it is clear that we must take action to recruit more members and I would like to return to this later in the evening.

One of the highlights of the year has been the Club Training Day organised in the Lake District by Chris Heaton in June. The Saturday training was complemented by a level C event on the Sunday. Many thanks to Chris for organising a day of high quality training.

In the area of coaching we continue to run three clubs nights and thanks are due to the club coaches and club night coordinators who give up their evenings to facilitate these sessions. We are currently looking to support coaches who wish to move from Level 1 to gain Level 2 qualifications. One of the problems is the dearth of training courses both locally and nationally. On the topic of coaching, Mark Hardy and Iain Phillips attended the National Coaching Weekend in January of this year and this will contribute to their Continuous Professional Development, which is a requirement for all coaches.

At the beginning of this year Stephen Chafer took over responsibility for our Permanent Orienteering Courses. Stephen is currently conducting a review of courses to assess those which need major repair and looking as to whether it is worthwhile continuing to maintain those courses that are lightly used.

Stephen is currently working with the Bradgate Park Trust to add extra courses for use by school parties. As this requires input from English Nature this is proving to be rather a slow process. New leaflets, created by the Education team at Bradgate Park for the Orange and Light Green courses are now on sale at the park shops.

Following on from an idea gained from SYO, in the autumn and winter of 2016/17 we piloted a schools league in North West Leicestershire. We have for several years run a very successful Primary Schools Championships which attracts over 500 children and there was an expectation that a Saturday League would have some support. Unfortunately this was not the case and attendances at the events were very low.

Undaunted the team who ran last year's league are trying again, this time with more support from the District Council. It is hoped that they will have more success the second time round.

In terms of events it has been, with the exception of the East Midlands Championships at Wakerley, somewhat of a quiet year, the lull before the storm arriving next year. That does not mean that we have not had any events, in fact we managed to log up a total of 47 in the last 12 months. During the year another 6 members of the club completed the Event Safety and Welfare Course and several other members have moved up the planning and organising grades.

My thanks to Ursula for taking on the role of Minor Fixtures Coordinator and navigating us through the perils of the Summer League and producing such a successful programme in her first year and many thanks to everybody who organised and planned. I also want to thank all those who helped collect controls at the end of events. We can always do with more volunteers for this task. Despite our drop in membership numbers at the Summer League events were roughly the same as in previous years. The winter league is now in full swing with the second event on Thursday evening and the programme for next years summer league is ready to go to press!

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. Bob is retiring as vice chairman at this meeting. On behalf of the club I would like to thank Bob for all the work he has done over many, many years. As far as I am aware, Bob is the only person who has in turn filled the roles of Secretary, Vice Chairman, and Chairman not forgetting a second spell as Vice Chairman. Once again many thanks. Bob is staying on the committee but he has given up his other role as the Club Delegate to the EMOA Committee. So we are looking for a new delegate and I would welcome a volunteer.

Much of our competition success this year has been as a result of the performances of the juniors. Some highlights. A third place in the JK relays for one of our teams. Another podium at the Peter Palmer Junior Team Relays, with a 3rd Place in the Joan George Trophy. A win in the Regional Heat of the Yvette Baker Trophy and of course that brilliant third place, after several recounts, in the Finals.

Individually, at the Midland Championships at Bentley Wood we had eight Midland champions, which I believe is the highest we have ever had. The British Middle Distance Championships at Wendover gave us two British Champions, Daisy Rennie and Finn Lydon. That day I was undertaking one of my other orienteering roles and I was the official presenting the medals and trophy and it was a very special moment to present two club members with their British Championship medals.

Finally thank you to everybody who has done so much over the last year to keep the club running so smoothly and enable us to put on some many events and activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes my report.

President's Remarks:

“Evening All – it is a privilege to be asked to give an overview of the Club and the Club’s activities and those who make them possible. Hoping not to be thought following the example of one Alexander Johnson – better known as he is by his second rather than first name! - but this past year has brought to mind the phrase *‘Tempus Fugit’*. British Orienteering celebrates it’s 50th Anniversary Year and a stalwart of the sport – Chris James of NGOC - has been awarded the 50th Anniversary Award, and I reached the milestone of becoming an M75, albeit a very slow and stuttering aged orienteer but still ‘battling on’!

Looking backwards makes one appreciate what has been and, perhaps, with regrets, what might have been, but also makes one positive about looking forward, anticipating the future, in the short, medium, and long term, with those leading our sport tackling the outcome of the Deloitte ‘Strategic Plan’ and the extensive range of the listed priorities and objectives, having to come to terms with financial restraints, and amending the structure and organisation of our sport, with members knowing that changes in minor or indeed major ways will have an effect upon their enjoyment and participation in Events and other aspects, be they coaching, mapping, organising, planning, controlling, educating, or simply being part of a group encouraging others of all ages to ‘give orienteering a go’ at Local Events’ and what used to be known as ‘CATI’ - ‘Come and Try It’.

As a Club we are fortunate, some would say ‘blessed’, with members with a wide range of skills and abilities who give their time and enthusiasm to guide the Club successfully day by day throughout each year from AGM to AGM, with some working for the sport further afield within our Region and beyond, including nationally within Groups and Committees. It is at this point that I would like to formally, on behalf of our Club, offer congratulations to Chris Phillips – though perhaps Chris might prefer commiserations – on his appointment as Chair of the Events & Competitions Committee. Chris has already made clear to the Board of Directors his views on the future management of our sport which can be described as forthright, direct, and – to use a phrase much used in the past year - ‘speaking truth to power’!

On behalf of the membership it gives me great pleasure to say ‘Thank You’ to our Officers, our Committee, and all who, in whatever way, have made the past year a success, particularly the Juniors, together with a wide range and number of Events within the East Midlands, Club Summer, Winter, and Saturday & Schools Leagues, Club Night coaching and training sessions, including a weekend in the Lake District, and not forgetting the Editors of our excellent ‘LEI News’.

Like all of you present here this evening, I know that we can look forward to another year of positive action and activity from this Autumn and through the months until we formally meet again next year at the 2018 AGM.

In conclusion, I ask that we move on to the next item on the Agenda to elect your Club Chairman, the other three Officers, and the Committee for 2017-2018.”

Ernie Williams

LEI AGM 2017. Future Plans

As well as the normal programme of activities and events there are two elements of next year's programme I would like to draw your attention to:

Firstly there is our UK Orienteering League weekend that will take place over the 17 and 18th March. Whilst this has been mentioned several times in the club's newsletter, in case you missed it here are the main points. On the Saturday we will be running a middle distance event at Irchester. This will be a Level B or National Level event. On the Sunday we move to Belvoir Castle for the Midlands Championships. Clearly putting on two big events in a weekend is going to require a significant amount of volunteer help. There will be some incentives for helping. Apart from Purple Jackets for our newer members, anybody helping at both events will be given a free run, that weekend, at the event of their choice. For those only able to help at one event we shall be giving the usual 50% helpers discount. Given the high price of the events these are significant discounts. As an aside, if you every think that the entry fees for bigger events cost a lot of money, just ask to see the budgets for these two events and I promise you will change your mind about event fees. I am, on behalf of the organisers of the two events, coordinating the helper recruitment. So I will be asking you in the next few weeks, along with every club members not present tonight, to help.

The second item I am going to mention is something completely new. Earlier in the evening I spoke about the drop in the club's membership. Our fellow EMOA clubs, NOC and DVO have, over the last year, been trying out a new recruitment programme, which has had some very good results. This is the Park Series. If you are a "friend" on both clubs face book page you may have seen mention of this.

The idea is very simple. The club runs a series of orienteering events at two week intervals, in our case it will be four events, in a city centre park. These events are not aimed at regular orienteers but at those who have not tried the sport before. Publicity for the event is principally via social media. The cost of taking part is very low or even free. The courses – well they are different and probably this is not the time to explain them. The plan is to stage this series in and around Leicester in the autumn of 2018 and we are looking to put together a dedicated team to run the four events. One of the key elements in this promotion are the meeters and greeters. They need to be enthusiastic and able to explain orienteering without resorting to jargon and technicalities. The crunch in all this is ,of course, converting those who come to the events into regular orienteers and club members.

Apart from these two major elements in our programme we shall of course be aiming to deliver our usual programme of EMOA League and Urban league events and our summer and winter Leagues. Our Spring Cottage event in April

will feature the combined East and West Midlands Yvette Baker Trophy heats. Our Clubs nights will continue at their normal venues as usual.

One area of club activity that I feel will need our attention, during the coming year, is that of coaching. Several elements of the Club's Development Plan major on coaching. My own personal view is that the time is now ripe for us to invest resources in asking our Level 1 Coaches to move forward to Level 2 and perhaps some of our Level 2's to move to Level 3. This would, I believe give us a much stronger coaching base and allow a more imaginative approach to our coaching programme.

Also in an effort to keep our sport in the public eye, Maureen Webb and Andy Portsmouth will be promoting orienteering, at Bradgate Park, on the 4 Saturdays in April. They will organising a maze and a white course.

For many of our coaches and event officials 2018 will be time to renew their First Aid Qualifications. We will therefore be running a First Aid Training Day on 20th January. My thanks to Liz Heaton for facilitating this

Looking a little further ahead it is our turn, once again, to host the British Sprint Championships in 2019 and it is the East Midlands turn to host the British Championships and Relays in 2021. The likely location is North Wales. Some possible venues have already been identified.

As many of you will be aware, earlier this year, British Orienteering published its strategic plan for the next 5yrs. One of the elements to the research backing that plan was looking at what the membership of the Federation actually wants in the way of events, their location and their size. It's very clear from the research that nearly all members (some 80%) do not travel very far to events and prefer local, smaller events to the big championships. In tandem with that you may have seen Mike Hamilton's piece that appeared in the last edition of Focus documenting the problems that have occurred staging major events. Combine these two elements with a steep rise in costs over the last few years and an aging membership, it is not difficult to predict that, in the coming years we will see changes to the structure of orienteering events and the range and number of events.

In 2020 the club celebrates its 50th Anniversary. One or two ideas as to how we may mark the occasions are already circulating and your committee will be giving it some thought during the coming months. I look forward to being with you at whatever social event we come up with as our main celebration.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you.

