



Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Leicestershire Orienteering Club held on Monday 29th October 2018 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, Roger Edwards, David Anderson, Andy Portsmouth, Ernie Williams, John Marriott, Peter Hornsby, Peter Leake, Roger Phillips, Simon Starkey, Simon Ford, Ian Wilson, Roy Denney.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: Anna Barber, Liz Heaton, Alan West, Wendy West, Iain Phillips, Tracey Brookes, Derek Herd, Maureen Webb.
2. Please see the attached Membership Report, 115 Seniors and 39 juniors for 2018.
3. The minutes of the AGM held on Monday 30th October 2017 were agreed to be a true record. Note the following corrections: 1. Tracey **Brookes** (not Brooke), 13. Attached **report** (not repot).
4. Matters arising from the minutes: none.
5. Chairman's Report on the past year: see attached report "Chairs report to AGM 2018".
6. Treasurer's report and Budget for coming year:
 - We made a small gain overall of £2,032. Taking into account the accumulated fund brought forward from 2017, the accumulated fund carried forward is £13,588. We expect to make a loss of circa £1,500 in 2019.
7. Independent Financial Examiner's report: the accounts have been approved by the independent financial examiner, Ian Chafer, with no adverse comments.
8. Approval of accounts: proposed by Roy Denney, seconded by Andy Portsmouth, approved by majority vote.
9. Report of any amendments to the Club Standing Orders:
 - No amendments in the last 12 months
 - GDPR policy published
10. Club membership fees for 2020:
 - Roger Edwards proposed no change (membership fees to remain £3 for Juniors and £6 for every other class.
 - Iain Tebbutt suggested abolishing membership fees.
 - Proposal from Iain: abolish membership fees for 2020, seconded by Peter Leake and Peter Hornsby with a caveat (Roger Edwards) that those non LEI members who receive LEI News should continue to make a £6 contribution.
 - 20 for, 2 against and 1 abstention, proposal accepted.
11. President's remarks and election of chairman: see attached report "President's Remarks 2018". Chris Phillips re-elected as Chair.
12. Chairman's outline of the coming year: see attached report "Plans for 2019".
13. Election of Principal Officers (Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer):
 - Vice chair Steve Chafer (proposed Ernie Williams, seconded Roy Denney)
 - Secretary Jane Dring-Morris (proposed Chris Phillips, seconded Ursula Williamson)
 - Treasurer Roger Edwards (proposed Chris Phillips, seconded Ursula Williamson)All accepted unanimously.

14. Election of committee: Anna Barber, Laurie Fluck, Bob Haskins, Peter Leake, Roger Phillips, Iain Phillips, Alan West, Wendy West, Ursula Williamson, Ian Wilson, Andy Portsmouth. All accepted unanimously.
15. Election/adoption of Independent Financial Examiner: Ian Chafer is to be asked to continue. Proposed by Roger Edwards and seconded by Andy Portsmouth. Accepted unanimously.
16. 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 by majority vote.

Open forum:

- Roger Phillips: communicated the proposed changes for the 2019 Compass Sport Cup.
- Chris Phillips: there have been discussions in the Region to introduce the M75 urban class.
- Chris Phillips: there have been discussions in the Region to reduce the number of events from 5 per club to 4 due to the difficulties in finding locations and event officials.
- Ernie Williams: LEI 50th Anniversary – could we run an event as close as possible to the date and time of the first LEI event? Peter Hornsby confirmed the first LEI event was at Bradgate Park in September.
- Peter Hornsby: The Outdoor Show will be shown on BBC2 Scotland at 7pm on 4th November 2018, part of which was filmed at the British Long Championships at Balmoral.
- Christmas Novelty event is on Saturday 8th December at Castle Hill.
- Compass Sport Cup heat is 17th March 2019.

Meeting closed at 9:25pm

Chairman's report to LEI AGM 2018

As always in the interest of brevity I will only be dealing the highlights of the last 12 months.

Much has happened in the last year, not always as planned! The winter weather hit the orienteering programme in the East Midlands very hard. Our UKOL weekend at Irchester and Belvoir was one of the victims. As you all be well aware it was a bitterly cold weekend but fortunately on the Saturday the snow held off long enough for the event to go ahead. Many thanks to all those shivered their way through the day helping run an event which attracted much praise and positive comment. The weather did not hold for the rest of the weekend and it was clear at 7.00 am on the Sunday that whilst the forest was OK for orienteering, the parking areas and estate roads were not passable and in places dangerous, and reluctantly I cancelled the event. Many thanks to the event officials for both days who put in a huge amount of work over the previous two years.

Thankfully the rest of our event programme ran smoothly and as I have commented in the latest LEI news our summer league programme was one of the best attended and most exciting for several years.

One the topic of events, one major piece of work that many of you may have missed is the changes over of our maps to the latest set of I.O.F specifications. Many thanks to Simon Starkey, our mapping co-ordinator for facilitating this and the club mappers who have put in a lot of time to make this happen.

As some of you will know from the membership report, last year and again this year we have suffered a drop-in membership. As a response to this your committee agreed to a recruiting drive, using as a model, the Park Series of events tried by DVO and NOC in 2017. The events have been advertised extensively through Facebook and are aimed at those who have little knowledge of the sport. Starting in September we have now completed 3 of the 5 events. Whilst the attendance of newbies is encouraging the success will really be measured in the numbers joining the club. My thanks to Roger Phillips for a orchestrating our Facebook Campaign.

When it comes to recruiting new members, please remember that the best method of recruiting is members bringing their friends along to events.

At four of our events this year we welcomed Tim Herod from British Orienteering. Tim conducted a survey of some of those attending the events - you may well have spent 10 mins with an I pad giving your views about the sport in general and LEI events in particular. Tim spent an evening in early September with Steve, Jane, Roger and myself to analyse the results. The results showed that most of those surveyed are happy with our club event programme and don't wish to see any significant change. In fact, Tim commented that given the results of the survey there was not a lot he could suggest in the way of changes - unlike the other clubs in the survey pilot scheme!

In February the club executive committee took a decision on the advice of the then coaching coordinator to reduce the number of club nights to one. This was to relieve the pressure on the coaching team and maximise the use of resources. The club night is currently running at South Charnwood School on Monday evenings. I think it

is too early to judge how much of a success the move and change to one evening has been.

Steve Chafer, in his role as Permanent Course Coordinator has made some changes to the management of the permanent courses that we have available. To reflect the work, we put into mapping areas, as maps are updated, we will be charging for most downloads. This year our two new sprint maps: Peter Hornsby's Irchester map and Peter Leake's Abbey Park have moved from being free to a small charge of about 50p per map, with sets of maps at reduced rates. The number of downloads remains high, but this includes one person who did download over one hundred course maps!

At the end of 2017 the BOF Development Team offered the club the use of a set of Xplorer equipment, and training in its use. We had a trial run at the Irchester event in March. Turnout was exceptional low, i.e. we are not sure anybody took part! so we are having another go at Bradgate in November and this will be in conjunction with the East Midlands League and the Leicester 5 Parks Challenge. We are hopeful that this will be organised by our juniors.

Our juniors once again have had a very good year with a comprehensive win in the Regional Heat of the Yvette Baker Trophy and a very good 5th Place in the Final.

Libby Barber was selected for the Lagganlia Training camp and also received the Rising Star Trophy at the post Club Championships presentations.

On the national stage Daniel Glover gained a 3rd Place in the M10A Final at the British Sprints and went two places better the next day at British Middles winning the M10 class. Older brother Ben also had a good weekend collecting second place in the M12 class at the British Middles.

Not to be out done our Seniors also collected a number of major titles.

Andy Simpson became M45 British Champion at Balmoral in May and M45 Middle Distance Champion at Stockhill in September.

Toni O'Donovan collected both British Sprints and British Middles W40 titles at the weekend in September

And just to round off that particular weekend Don Moir came home with the Sprints M85 title and second place M85 in the Middles.

I think I should add that at the Lakes 5 days Don won on three days and came second on the other two in the M85 class.

Congratulation must also go to Iain Phillips on his selection for the GB team at the European Trail O Championships in Slovakia

On the social side I must report on one wedding and one addition to the orienteering fraternity.

Julie Ferris and John Worth married in June and a number of us had a very pleasant weekend in the Lake District at their second wedding reception. I have to say this is

the first time that I have had an invitation to a wedding reception has included the words "please join us for a fell race" I can report that LEI members excelled in the dancing that took place at then end of the evening.

Congratulations to Chris and Liz Heaton on the birth of their son Marcus who arrived in mid August - and three weeks later went to his first orienteering event.

Lastly, I wish to extend my thanks to Steve, Jane and Roger, my fellow principle officers for all the work they have put in over the last 12 months, much of it behind the scenes and un beknown to the majority of members of the club. Thanks also to all those of you who have sat on committee, coached, organised and planned or just helped with the 100 and 1 jobs that have needed doing over the last year, you make the running of this club a very easy task. Thank you very much.

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen, that concludes my report.

President's Remarks:

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen – as we are gathered once again it is an honour to do so as your President, in part to make public a few thoughts, and to give thanks for the past year, and to look forward to what the future will bring.

If there is one theme that has run through the past twelve months it is that of 'Challenges', be they personal such that we are able to see what each of us have achieved, hopefully to a reasonable level of satisfaction and enjoyment, what improvements we still need to make in a variety of competitive formats both individually and equally importantly as a Club, and the link between the membership of our Club, our Region, and the wider reaches of the British Orienteering Federation throughout the United Kingdom, and we have a significant standing and reputation because of our excellent record through the years of hosting the wide range of Events through the Levels from Local to Major.

There is saying that "There is no 'I' in 'Team'" and it is this working of our members together, very specifically as 'LEI', that enables us to put on the variety of Events such as the East Midlands League, the East Midlands Urban League, the Summer and Winter Leagues, the newly formed '5 Parks Challenge', and hosting 'National' and 'Major Championship' Events.

In all of this there are still challenges to meet – it is being suggested, rightly, that if there are variety of formats of Event then our members and those from other Clubs should have the opportunity to hone and practice their skills at, for example, Sprint Distance, Middle Distance, and Relay Events, as well as the Long Distance, Urban, and Night Events.

Also, next month there is the opportunity to discover, learn, and enhance new and existing skills at the Regional Training Day, such that the Club has more Organisers, Planners, Mappers, and Controllers, to not only spread the load but also to bring in and bring on new 'Event Officials' and 'Event Helpers' and 'Co-Organisers', Co-Planners, and 'Assistant Controllers', not forgetting the important roles that our Club Coaches undertake at the regular 'Club Nights' and elsewhere with a wide variety of ages Club members aiming to improve their technical and physical performances.

This in turn means that it is envisaged that our Club will adapt successfully at coping with changing circumstances, including that of falling membership throughout the UK, the current ageing membership profile, coping with effects from outside of our sport such as land access and rising access charges, and possible changes in the overall structure of our Sport with regard to Events and to Management, for example with the recent appointment of a Major Events Consultant and an England Competitions Officer.

Also, recently I was asked to give my views on a Newsletter from a distinctively non-sporting Leicestershire Group and my overall comment was that, when compared to our award-winning Newsletter, it was pretty good and that the members should be proud and supportive of their Editor, just as we are of our Editors – I thought that this should be, and it was, taken as praise indeed!

So, throughout the past year, and in the year to come, we are fortunate to have the very real benefit of experienced Officers and Committee Members, together with members willing to give of their time committed to offering help and assistance at Events from small to large – for this we should say a very big "Thank You" and "Keep up the good work"!

I will conclude by saying a personal 'Thank You' and by moving on to the next items on the Agenda, the first of which is to elect your Club Chair, and for this important position I propose that it be Chris Phillips, secondly the other Officers, and then the Club Committee for the coming year 2018-2019.

Ernie Williams
29th October 2018

Plans for the Forthcoming Year. AGM 2018

Looking first at finance. As our accounts show we have a healthy bank balance and in the immediate future there is no reason to suppose that our current financial state will deteriorate. However, I would like to sound some warning notes. Firstly, we are heavily dependent on the income we receive from our members gift aid contributions and that is dependent on tax regulations set by the government. Given the uncertain financial future there is always the possibility that will change. Secondly, costs are continuing to rise, in particular access fees for event areas, and thirdly, whilst we may not be affected, with the continuing uncertainty of the Brexit negotiations a significant drop in the amount of disposable income that people have, may well be reducing our income. None of these are at the moment a cause for alarm we do need to be aware of the possible pressures on our finances.

In November the club's executive committee will be reviewing the Development Plan. The current plan is coming to the end of its life cycle and we now need to consider the next three to four years in the life and development of the club. One of the issues that we will have to examine is recruitment of new members and we will be analysing the results from the Park Series and looking at what pointers we can take forward from those events.

Our event programme as always will be at the core of what we do. The Summer and Winter Leagues will be running as normal and we will be staging the usual programme of Level C events. The highlight of next year is of course the staging of the British Sprint Championships on the 14th September at Loughborough University. The event will be a World Ranking Event. This is the first time that IOF have accepted a British Sprints as WRE.

Sprint events are becoming more popular and we are expecting around 900 competitors. Bob and I will be asking members, early in the new year to take on Team Leader roles and later in the summer inviting everybody to help

Because of the work load of staging such a high-profile event we will be staging one less Urban Level C this year. There is currently a discussion at EMOA committee about reducing the number of Level C events, that take place each year in the region. In particular a reduction in the numbers of events in various leagues. This is because not only are all the clubs in the region struggling to find event officials but several clubs are having difficulty gaining access to areas at certain times of the year.

One of the problems that the club has had for several years is a shortage of mappers. Maps are of course at the core of our sport and our small band of mappers are not getting any younger. Unless we can find some new recruits to the ranks of our mapping team we will be faced with a real problem in the near future. Or the increased expense of employing professional mappers.

Our Club Night at South Charnwood School will continue to run for the next year and will, among other things, form the core of our work with juniors. Judging by results in the last year, we have some very promising juniors and there is I think many more podiums to come from our current junior squad.

Our juniors, lead by Anna our Junior Captain will be planning and organising the Winter League event at the Hermitage. I hope you will all support them at that event.

On a personal note, as some of you are aware, I will not be seeking re-election as Chairman next year. I have been your Chairman for 7 of the last 11 years and its high time that I returned to the back benches. Steve, has volunteered next year, to move from the comfort of the Vice Chairman's seat to take over as Chairman and Jane has accepted my suggestion that as excellent as she is as Secretary she would make an event better Vice Chairman. You will all of course realise that we will then need a new Secretary – names have been mentioned!

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes my comments on the year ahead.