



Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting of the Leicestershire Orienteering Club held on Monday 28th October 2019 at the Glenfield Parish Rooms, Stamford St., Glenfield, LE3 8DL

Present:

Chris Phillips, Ursula Williamson, Jane Dring-Morris, Steve Chafer, Chris Bosley, Dave Toach, Laurie Fluck, Bob Haskins, Alastair Paterson, Roger Edwards, Andy Portsmouth, Ernie Williams, John Marriott, Peter Hornsby, Peter Leake, Roger Phillips, Simon Starkey, Roy Denney, Wendy and Alan West, Esther Revell, Iain Phillips, Peter Chick, David Cladingboel, Kevin Barber, Libby Barber

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: David Anderson, Ian Wilson, Maureen Webb, Philip Caswell.
2. Declaration of membership: 106 Seniors and 33 juniors for 2019.
3. The minutes of the AGM held on Monday 29th October 2018 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 "Chair's report to AGM 2019".
6. Treasurer's report and Budget for coming year:
 - We made a small loss overall on events. Other activities broke even and with gift aid we generated a surplus of £1,200.
 - British Sprints has generated a surplus of c. £3,600 so far
7. Independent Financial Examiner's report: the accounts have been approved by the independent financial examiner, Ian Chafer, with no adverse comments.
Approval of accounts: proposed by Andy Portsmouth, seconded by Roy Denney, approved by majority vote.
8. Report of any amendments to the Club Standing Orders:
 - No amendments in the last 12 months
9. Club membership fees for 2021:
 - Roger Edwards proposed that there should be no change to membership fees for 2021. Seconded by Chris Phillips, approved by majority vote. LEI membership fees to remain at £0 (with the exception being those non LEI members who receive a copy of the LEI News)
10. President's remarks and election of chairman: see attached report "President's Remarks 2019". Steve Chafer elected as Chair.
11. Chairman's outline of the coming year given by Steve:
 - Chris Phillips to continue as events co-ordinator
 - 50th anniversary event to be held at Burbage Common using older versions of the map
 - Finances are OK and a profit is forecast for 2020
 - Development Plan to be reviewed, specifically regarding membership
 - We have a full programme of Summer and Winter league events for 2020
 - Standing Orders to be reviewed, with a review of club roles
 - Thanks given to the principal officers and welcome to Esther (Club Captain) and Libby (Junior Captain)
12. Election of Principal Officers (Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer):

- Vice chair Jane Dring-Morris (no other nominations so appointed unopposed)
- Secretary Roger Phillips (no other nominations so appointed unopposed)
- Treasurer Roger Edwards (no other nominations so appointed unopposed)

All accepted unanimously.

13. Election of executive committee: Libby Barber, Laurie Fluck, Bob Haskins, Peter Leake, Chris Phillips, Iain Phillips, Alan West, Wendy West, Ursula Williamson, Ian Wilson, Andy Portsmouth, Esther Revell. All accepted unanimously.
14. Election/adoption of Independent Financial Examiner: Ian Chafer is to be asked to continue. Proposed by Roger Edwards and seconded by Roy Denney. Accepted unanimously.
15. Election of President and Honorary Members: President Ernie Williams proposed by Chris Phillips, accepted unanimously. Proposed honorary members: Sam Lattaway, and Catherine Cox. All accepted unanimously.

Open forum:

- Steve Chafer:
 - Our 50th anniversary event on 04/10/20 will be the Club Championships as well
 - A souvenir LEI News is proposed as well as a club memento and there will be food after the 50th anniversary event
 - Club dinner will be at the end of February 2020 (Chris Phillips is awaiting confirmation from Longcliffe)
 - Any suggestions on how we can combine a Level C event with the Club Championships?
- Roger Phillips: CompassSport Cup Heat will be 15/03/20 in a SMOC area (likely to be Aspley Heath)
- Chris Phillips: more volunteers for the Level C event at Aylestone on 17/11/19 required.
- Ursula Williamson: there will be no Christmas Novelty event this year
- Chris Phillips: major events coming up in the next 3 – 4 years are the YBT final (Irchester) in 2021 and the JK Sprint in 2024 (BOF are looking for a day organiser and planner)
- Steven Chafer: any update on new areas? Roy confirmed we are more likely to lose areas than gain areas. Simon Starkey advised that there is an extension to Sence Valley planned and that Queen Elizabeth Wood at Normanton is maturing. Feanedock Pick Triangle is maturing and we need more mappers
- Roy Denney: road crossing rules discussed

Meeting closed at 9:22pm

LEI AGM 2019

Chairman's Report

As usual, in the interests of brevity, I am only going to touch on the highlights of what has been an eventful year.

In terms of the day to day running of the club, the Executive Committee and the Sub Committees have met at regular intervals throughout the year. Additionally, your principal officers have also met on a regular basis, both formally and informally. As the Treasurer will shortly report, our finances are in a strong position and whilst maintaining our membership level is challenging, we are in a better situation than many clubs in the UK.

The core of any Orienteering Club is its event programme. During the last year we have organised 35 events. Not surprisingly with the dramatic decline of our club neighbours NOC, numbers at our Level C events have declined slightly. That has not the case with our 2019 Summer League. Average numbers, at Summer League events, rose from 42 in 2018 to 53 in 2019.

In 2018 the competition at the Summer League, for the lady's trophy went down to wire, this year it was the men's turn with only 5 points separate the overall winner Andy Glover from second place Ed De Salis Young. My thanks to all the club members who planned and organised events and to Ursula for running the league. Incidentally Ursula is currently looking for organisers for the 2020 league.

Undoubtedly the highlight of our event year was the hosting of the British Orienteering Sprint Distance Championships. The event had the additional interest of being a I.O.F World Ranking Event. The first ever in Leicestershire.

It is generally accepted that the "Sprints" are the most technically complex of all the elements of the British Championships. With the added issues presented by the WRE races there were a significant number of challenges for the Organising and Planning teams. As is often the case with the big events a number of problems winged in at the last minute, none of them of our making. Thankfully all way well on the day.

As a club we were very lucky to have a great of support from the Staff at Loughborough University and it was a great pleasure to welcome the Vice Chancellor of the University to the presentations at the end of the event.

One of the best decisions that we made early in the organising process was commissioning Si entries, not only to handle the entries, but additionally to take on start allocations for the heats and finals. This took a great deal of pressure off us as a club and Si did a superb job, apart from small blip.

Many thanks to my fellow event officials, Bob, Iain, Peter, Roger and Ursula for all the work they put in the year before the event. I must also thank all the team leaders and club members who contributed so much to making the event the most smooth-running Sprints since to 2013.

Turning to other club matters.

I mentioned earlier that maintain membership numbers was a challenge. This is not a new phenomenon. I recently was filing some back copies of the LEI from the late 1990's The LEI news recorded that we had 35 new members that year. Within 2 years all those new members had left. New members are like gold and we should do everything to nurture them and help them develop as orienteers.

I mentioned at last year's AGM we have moved Club Nights to a single night at South Charnwood School. A tweak to this has been changing the night from Monday to Tuesday. This has been very successful with our numbers being consistently in the high teens with a wide age range of attendees.

We have carried on our very good relationship with schools in North \West Leicestershire. As a result of the Primary Schools Competition over the last few years children from Worthington Primary School took part as members of the LEI team both at the YBT Regional Heat and at the Final.

For the Compass Sport Cup Final in March at Sherwood Pines over half the club membership turned out to run for the club. One of our best turn out in recent years. Whilst we did n't win, we did have a very good results against some of the strongest clubs in the country.

Talking of Team Events, I must thank Roger Phillips our Club Captain for all his work organising the club, over the last 7 years at the various senior and junior team events. Roger is standing down, as Captain, at the end of this meeting -although he has volunteered for another role. In addition to all his work as Captain he has master minded our Facebook page and group and produced a most of the graphics for all our event and club publicity. Something I hope he will continue in his new role. Thank you for all your work.

We have a complete change of Club Captains this year as Anna our Junior Captain has moved on to University. My thanks to her for all the work that she has put in over the last two years and our best wishes for the future.

As I indicated last year I would be standing down as Chairman, although I will be continuing as a committee member and if the new Chairman ask's me as the Club Events Co-ordinator.

Finally thank you to everybody for all your support over the last few years. The club is very lucky in having a such a large and capable body of members who make the Chairman's job so easy.

Chris Phillips.

President's Remarks at the LEI.O.C. AGM held on 28th October 2019

A pleasure to be asked as your President to talk reasonably briefly about our Club this evening and to concentrate on two matters, the latter of which can be correctly described as “Hail and Farewell to the Captain of our ‘Good Ship the O-S-V LEIOC’”.

For many Club members the highlight of the year will have been the exceptionally active day at the 2019 British Sprint Championships at Loughborough University though, speaking very personally, I think that Irene M in her ‘Retired Man Chronicles’ was a little bit harsh when commenting on my contribution as “talking people to death”, when in fact it was more helping them into a gentle state of stupor and rigidity, that is catatonia, to alleviate their anxiety for needing to enquire and clarify a worrying problem; more to the point Irene omitted to mention my regular visits to Download regarding ‘Enquiries’ – across the Event Centre, through the Fire Door, down two flights of stairs, often against the flow of happy, satisfied, or even dejected competitors, through an illegally held open Fire Door, checking with Kevin and Jeff as best as was possible to get an accurate clarification, and then the same route back up again, often to discover that the ‘enquirer’ had somehow disappeared – in all my good lady was surprised that her recent present of a ‘Fitness Tracker’ showed that for an M77 who assured her he would be sitting down all day had somehow managed to achieve a total of 13,970 footsteps between 08:30 and 17:00 hours!

So, now to come back to the present and the retirement of Chris from his post as Chair of LEI.

I’m certain that many of you with long memories will be able to think back to the very early years of the present century when LEI, foremost amongst the EMOA Clubs, was invited to support NWOA at the 2004 JK and organise the Classic Long Distance Day 3 at the 5000 acre Graythwaite Estate west of Windermere – for over two years Chris and myself travelled to the Lakes, took part in extensive meetings and site visits, for 12 to 14 hour days, and for the Day later to be voted by the UK’s Elite Competitors as ‘The Best Day of Competition’ in 2004! That is when the star of LEI as a very well organised and respected Club fully rose and stays shining to this very day, lead as it has been by Chris for well over a decade. The letters STD – no, not ‘Standard Trunk Dialling’ - standing for ‘Successful – Trusted – Dependable’ are qualities that we as a Club are known for and Chris has ensured that this has been the case and will continue to be so.

Also, Chris has made and is continuing to make a major contribution to our sport not only as a member of the Event & Competitions Committee but also currently as the Chair of this august body – it is very much a proactive role in keeping both competitive and recreational aspects of our sport available and of the necessary quality. Many are not aware that all too often there is an aspect to this role whereby, like the legendary iceberg little seen above the surface but pretty humongous underneath, what may seem to those making a simple query or complaint - that should be made elsewhere in the first instance - is made all too often directly to Chris most days of the year – another burden of the role that he willingly undertakes on behalf of all members of British Orienteering.

Our Club is second to none with a reputation amongst other Clubs throughout the UK and long may it continue to be so - Chris, thank you very, very much.

It is now time for me to ask you to welcome the, hopefully unopposed, election of our current Vice Chair Stephen Chafer to the post of Chair of LEI – Stephen – on behalf of all LEI members ‘Good Luck and Thank You’.

Ernie Williams

Treasurer's Report

Looking at the Accounts you will have found that event turnover has dropped massively as last year included the ill-fated Midlands Championships. Overall we just had a small loss on events.

Other activities more than broke even and with our gift aid we generated the surplus of £1,200. So a fairly straight forwards year.

The Budget for this year

Each year I present a budget to the August Committee and it's fairly normal for there to be a forecast loss, no different this time. This year I did not allow enough for our successful summer league programme and adding the £30 extra per event converted a loss into a surplus.

However the budget included the original British sprint budget, which is break even at 600 entries. Of course we now are very close to knowing the full outcome so the actuals are now quite a bit different. Many of our bills have come in below estimates. On the income side the number of juniors was much higher than for our typical events, so income is down here. Just allowing late entries on the 28th August, the day after official closing netted about £200 surplus. You can do the maths; but work on 600 runners covers the costs and we make £20 per head on extras entries.

So I would confidently conclude that there will be a surplus this year.