

NORTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ORIENTEERING CLUB
MINUTES FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in Room TC218A, Oxstalls Campus, University of Gloucester on 7th November 2011

The meeting was formally opened at 8.15 pm, following a very interesting talk by Simon Holloway from the Forestry Commission. He told us about the history of the forest and the variety of plants and animals which can be found there. He also talked about how forest operations are carried out in such a way as to minimize impact on wildlife. There followed some discussion on how orienteering could affect wildlife, but generally it was seen to have little effect and as a result our requests for access were usually accepted with little problem.

1. **PRESENT:** Pat MacLeod (Chairman/Equipment officer), Greg Best (Club Captain), Alan Brown (Legend), Roger Coe (committee), Caroline Craig (Secretary), John Fallows (committee), Dave Hartley (Fixtures), Gill James (Welfare Officer), Carol Stewart (Treasurer), Paul Taunton (Mapping officer), Ann Brown, Ian Coe, Veronica Coe, John Coleman, Ashleigh Denman, Simon Denman, Sue Hartley, Richard Higgs, Chris James, Dave Jones, Janet Jones, Eddie McLarnon, Tom Mills, Joe Parkinson, Jeremy Riley, Shirley Robinson, Stephen Robinson, Gill Stott, Bob Teed, Gary Wakerley, John Wickson, Pippa Wickson, Steve Williams

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Neil and Pat Cameron, Alan and Ellen Starling, Rodney Archard.

2. **MINUTES FROM 2010 AGM:** These were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, Pat MacLeod. Pat M reported that he'd not checked how well we're keeping up with Clubmark, but planned to do so. It was noted that a handicap system for the Chairman's Challenge had been devised and implemented this year.
3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Pat thanked the committee for all their work, which has made his role as Chairman much easier. He also thanked all the volunteers and encouraged others to volunteer. He noted that it is particularly useful to have Chris and Gill James and Neil and Pat Cameron in the club, as they understand British Orienteering so well. He thanked them for their help.
4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance and there were no new issues.
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The accounts had been circulated in advance. Although the club had made a loss on the year, this was only small (£124) and had since been offset by a payment from Hartpur College for their map. This year, we had less income from SI hire than usual and Informals and Mini Leagues had been less profitable than last year. However, our share of the JK 2010 grant had been useful and the Legend expenses had decreased now that Alan prints the hard copies himself. Carol encouraged people to claim their expenses, as she suspected people hadn't claimed everything this year. She noted that although Forest Challenge currently appears to be making a loss, Alan now has lots of stock so it will be making a profit for a while from now.

At present the club was in a good position financially with £10000 in cash assets. However, we expect to see lots of change with respect to membership and levies in 2013. We will be raising the club fees in 2012, as agreed at the 2010 AGM, but no change is planned for 2013 fees. We will also be making a big outlay this year if we purchase new club kit, and will be subsidising it. We were faced with a 1000% increase in Forestry Commission fees, but this is now in review (though it is possible the fees will still increase). Thanks were expressed to Mike Hamilton for negotiating this.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Chris James and seconded by Gary Wakerley.

6. **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Pat MacLeod summarized Ellen's report. We have approximately 140 members in total, which is similar to last year. However, we may be starting to see the results of development activities, with 3 or 4 new members expected soon.

Pat thanked Ellen on behalf of the club for getting the membership system set up and keeping it running, and also for offering to continue to support it while handing the role over.

7. **FIXTURES SECRETARY'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Dave Hartley

commented that Saturday's turnout of over 170 must indicate that we're putting on good events. He noted that he'd visited all the schools in Gloucester to advertise Greg's series of events in the spring, but to little effect. This highlighted the challenge of getting children and schools interested. Dave thanked Carol for all her help at all the events, and many others agreed that they didn't know what would happen without her. Dave also thanked Roger for working alongside him so well.

8. **MAPPING OFFICER'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. There was some discussion about how many maps we should print for League events, after we had 171 competitors on Saturday compared to the average of 100. While wasting 100 maps would cost around £25, the average profit on a League event is around £300. Paul concluded that he can be "less mean" when printing maps in future, particularly as we can re-use them by printing on the backs for Informal events.

Pat M thanked Paul for all his work, particularly for the controlling he does in addition to the printing, making it a first-class service. Gill Stott asked Paul how many map corrections he's typically asked to add, and whether it was time-consuming. He didn't find this time-consuming, unless there were lots of corrections.

Pat M added (on the subject of new maps) that we now have the Hartpury College map and Gloucester Docks is almost ready to map. Greg added that we have a map of the Park campus in Cheltenham, new this year. Pat has made a map showing which areas we have mapped, to appear on the new website.

9. **EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Pat MacLeod noted that a generator and a laptop were the only major expenses this year.

10. **CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Greg emphasised our success at the CompassSport Trophy being the highlight of the year. It was the first time we'd reached the final, yet we still came 6th out of 11. Next year's final is in Scotland but in 2014 it'll be much closer, in the Forest of Dean. Greg had entered NGOC teams for all the other team competitions this year, except for the junior ones. Finding teams for junior competitions is something to aim for.

Pat M thanked Greg for doing a brilliant job as Captain, which he saw as one of the hardest jobs in the club. A notable achievement this year was getting 40 people to travel to the Peak District for the CST final. As a result, we probably had the best turnout of the CST clubs.

11. **LEGEND EDITOR'S REPORT:** Alan thanked everyone for their articles and encouraged more people to contribute. Pat M thanked Alan for doing such a good job with the newsletter.

12. **WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Gill James had been to a Steering Group meeting on protecting children and vulnerable adults, which she found very useful. She will keep us updated on future meetings. CRB will be changing before next April, but the details are not yet available, so for now Gill will continue to ensure people's CRBs are up to date. Gill suggested that it would be good to have a second (male) person who can cover welfare matters. Gary Wakerley has done the courses, so he can do this.

13. **DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Pat M highlighted the two series of beginners' events which we ran last year – Greg's series in the Cheltenham and Gloucester area and Kyla's series in Hereford. Last year we spent around £600 on development activities and only gained around £60. Although this looks bad, these activities are useful and necessary in order to get new members. Other clubs have persevered and had success, so we will persevere. We will consider charging a very small amount at development events.

This year, we will change our focus slightly, in line with British Orienteering's suggestions and the Whole Sport Plan. Chris James summarised what was said at the Association and Club Conference: The government's grants to sports are based on increasing participation, which is what the Whole Sport Plan is designed to do. On the subject of membership fees and levies, some people at the conference had said there were too many people getting to orienteer for very little, so it had been suggested that membership fees be low but levies be increased. Chris also highlighted the advantage of everyone on the board at British Orienteering being an active orienteer.

Three elements of development were being planned for this year:

- We have a grant available to recruit a paid coach and are currently looking for candidates. The intention is to build a program based on the University, but including more people too.
- Hartpury College are very keen to start something there.
- Kyla's Adventure Club is now up and running and we hope to see something come out of it soon.

14. **SWOA COMMITTEE FEEDBACK:** Pat M had been to one meeting since Neil Cameron had stopped being our representative. He was unsure whether it was useful to attend, but will attend some more meetings before deciding.

15. **AWARD OF TROPHIES AND PRIZES:** Prizewinners were as follows:

Chairman's Challenge: Neil Cameron (NGOC). The trophy had been presented on the day.

Terry Bradstock Trophy: Bob Teed (2683 points); 2nd – Andy Stott (2272 points); 3rd - Gill Stott (2229 points). Thanks to John Fallows for the calculations, rendered more complicated by the variation of event scoring between colour-coded and age-class categories.

NGOC Minileague:

Blue:

Winner – David Nevell (HOC) 5212 points; 1st NGOC - Peter Ward, 2nd, 4808 points;

1st lady - Caroline Craig (NGOC) 5th, 3965 points.

Green:

Winner - Rachel Dennis (BOK) 4372 points; 1st NGOC - Steven Harris, 2nd, 4209 points;

1st Junior - Ali Wilkinson (HOC) 6th, 3886 points.

Orange:

Winner - Samantha Harris (NGOC) 4616 points; Second - Ashleigh Denman (NGOC) 3959 points;

Third and 1st non-NGOC - Adrian Dawson (SARUM) 3936 points.

Yellow:

Winner - Joe Hudd (BOK) M8, 3294 points; 1st NGOC - Josh da Cunha, M6, 3rd, 2045 points;

1st girl - Rebecca Ward (NGOC) W8, 4th, 1747 points.

Ultrasport vouchers were awarded to the prize-winners on Blue, Green and Orange; certificates were awarded to the Yellow winners.

16. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Ellen Starling and Pat Cameron had decided to stand down from the committee this year. Pat MacLeod thanked them for all their hard work during their time as committee members.

Nominations had been received for:

Membership Secretary Simon Denman (Chris James proposed; Roger Coe seconded)

Committee member Gary Wakerley (Gill James proposed; Dave Hartley seconded)

There being no other nominations, these were duly elected.

The following postholders were willing to stand again and were duly re-elected:

Chairman & Equipment Pat MacLeod

Treasurer Carol Stewart

Secretary Caroline Craig

Fixtures Dave Hartley

Mapping Paul Taunton

Club Captain Greg Best

Legend Editor Alan Brown

Welfare Officer Gill James

Committee members Roger Coe, John Fallows

Chris James thanked the committee on behalf of the club.

There is still a vacancy for a Development Officer. Pat MacLeod is currently performing this role,

but is more than happy to share the workload if anyone is interest in taking on the post.

Action: All members

17. **MEMBERSHIP FEES:** We had increased the membership fees for 2012 as agreed at the 2010 AGM. We will wait to see how British Orienteering change their system of fees, before making any further changes. NGOC membership fees for 2013 will therefore remain the same as those for 2012.
18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** There was no other business for the AGM. Discussions on the new club website and potential new club kit took place after the meeting closed.
19. **CLOSE:** The meeting closed at 9.25. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.