

NORTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ORIENTEERING CLUB
MINUTES FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in Room TC218A, Oxstalls Campus, University of Gloucester on 8th October 2012

The meeting was formally opened at 8pm, following a buffet and informal chat. Unlike recent years, there was no talk, as the speaker had had to cancel a few weeks previously. Pat was interested to know whether it was likely that more people would have come if there was a speaker.

1. **PRESENT:** Pat MacLeod (Chairman/Equipment officer), Greg Best (Club Captain), Alan Brown (Legend Editor), Roger Coe (committee), Caroline Craig (Secretary), John Fallows (committee), Dave Hartley (Fixtures Secretary), Gill James (Welfare Officer), Carol Stewart (Treasurer), Paul Taunton (Mapping officer), Simon Denman (Membership secretary), Gary Wakerley (committee), Ann Brown, John Coleman, Chris James, Eddie McLarnon, Joe Parkinson, Bob Teed, Peter Poole, Nikola Poole, Don Gray.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Rodney and Vicki Archard, Neil and Pat Cameron, Ros Taunton, Ashleigh Denman, Kim Liggett.

2. **MINUTES FROM 2011 AGM:** These were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, Pat MacLeod.
3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance.

Pat thanked everyone for coming. On behalf of the club, he thanked the committee and all volunteers for all their work, which apparently makes his role straightforward. He added that it was good to see Carol back after her accident, noting that she was indispensable. He announced that Chris James had just been appointed Chairman of British Orienteering's events committee and thanked Chris for taking on this role, noting how lucky we are to have club members in British Orienteering positions. Chris explained how his appointment came about. He had been a board member for a year in transition and is used to chairing meetings and clubs, so he applied for the position. In his role, he will help input from various subcommittees to reach the board. Chris also felt he should mention that his son-in-law, Dave Peel, is on the committee.

When he took up the role of Chairman, Pat expected to focus on three things:

- Forestry Commission fees – this issue has disappeared for now, with the interim agreement still in place.
- Volunteers – Dave Hartley has done a great job in getting new organisers. Guidance has been produced to help people with planning, controlling and organising. This took the form of talks and notes.
- Participation – It's hard to tell whether this has improved, because new members won't join until November, but we expect a few new people to join.

We have donated around £600 to charity this year, mostly thanks to Alan and his production of Forest Challenge. Bob's Pied Piper event raised about £100 for that appeal.

Pat concluded that we have had a reasonably successful year and hoped that next year we would continue in increasing involvement and participation.

Roger reported that Pat has done a lot more than his Chairman role, and could almost be a one-man committee. Various people agreed.

There was some confusion over what had happened to the Community O plans, so Pat clarified. The scheme had run out of money so the funding had stopped and Caroline Gay's post was removed. Pat felt a bit guilty that we'd not tried harder to get in touch with the coaches, but we had tried and it was disappointing that they'd not tried. Pat strongly feels that club nights and Community O only work when there's an enthusiastic orienteering coach to run it and to encourage people to get into orienteering, and that a publicist is also very important. Chris highlighted that it is up to all of us to keep looking for someone enthusiastic to run our Community O, now that we are beginning to branch out from running good events into encouraging newcomers.

4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance and Caroline had nothing to add. It was mentioned that the new club kit was highly regarded.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The accounts had been circulated in advance and showed that we were in a pretty healthy position. Although the club had made slightly more loss than last year, it still wasn't much. Forest Challenge had done well, as had the tuck shop (although some things were damaged in the accident). We have good assets at the moment so should be ok for a while. The accounts had not yet been examined because the earlier meeting and the accident had left too little time.

Proposal: change to membership fees

In light of the changes to British Orienteering and SWOA membership fees, the committee had proposed that NGOC reduce their membership fees for 2013, to £4 for Seniors and free for Juniors, with no Family membership option. With these fees, nobody will be paying more than they were last year. Joe asked how many events people will need to attend in order to break even. Pat responded that it was hard to tell, as it depends on the type of events. Carol summarized the plans for event fees, as follows. The senior fee for Informal events will be increased to £4 for the 2012-13 season, but no other changes will be made this season, allowing us to see the effect of the increased levies in 2013 before we decide whether our event fees need to be changed for the following season. Chris described the ideas behind the change in British Orienteering membership fees and levies - it had come from the Association and Club Conference last year, where there was a strong sense that everyone in the sport should be contributing to the sport. Chris felt the conference had been very worthwhile and encouraged any member to volunteer to go this year. Gill James proposed the change and Gary Wakerley seconded it, with nobody in disagreement.

6. **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance, with graphs showing little change in membership. Simon noted a general trend towards getting older, though we hope to have some new members in November. Simon thought the lapsed memberships were mostly due to there no longer being a "club only" membership option, and hoped that the big reduction in the National British Orienteering fee would act against this. He added that we should be able to increase event fees further without people thinking it expensive.
7. **FIXTURES SECRETARY'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Pat said we are hugely grateful to Dave for all his work in getting new organisers and also in arranging a good spread of fixtures well in advance. Dave reported that it had been a good year and thanked the organisers for putting on events. He highlighted the success of the summer events arranged by Pat. Pat added that although the summer events were only moderately successful in getting new people, the biggest success there this year was getting regular orienteers. This gives the events a better atmosphere for newcomers, than if they were only attended by those trying out the sport.
8. **MAPPING OFFICER'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Paul added that the Gloucester Docks map had also been updated. He suggested we could use it for an event similar to the combined Park and Street O events in the summer.

Pat talked about the possibilities for using LIDAR data for mapping, having displayed some information and example plots during the buffet. We have very good data for the Cotswolds, which helped Greg to produce a very good map of Crickley Hill. He talked of two challenges:

- The need to get good data at a decent price, covering the necessary area. The 5m data is not good enough, but Pat suggested we buy a 1km square of 2m data for somewhere in the forest, to determine whether it is worth it.
- The licensing for LIDAR data is very restrictive. Pat is finding out what we can do with the data once we get it, as we need to ensure the licensing isn't too restrictive. For example, it is only worth mapping Woodchester Park if we can give the maps to the National Trust and the farm there.

Pat added that he would like people to think about possible new areas for new forms of orienteering, for example in urban areas. If anyone thinks of any, they should suggest them to the committee. We will organize a Photo-O (like the one at Croeso) in December. Gill added that the maze had been very successful. We hope to put it up at the Galoppen this season.

9. **EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. The only major expenses this year were the purchase of OCAD 11 and the refurbishment of a club laptop.
10. **CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Greg thanked everyone who

came to the team events. He noted the good turnout of around 40 people for the CompassSport Cup, even though we were back in the Cup competition and thus didn't score very highly.

Greg drew attention to an article in Focus, announcing a new club league next year. It consists of 20 National events, with the best 10 individual performances counting towards a club's score.

Pat thanked Greg for all his effort, knowing how hard it is to convince people to go to things.

11. **LEGEND EDITOR'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Alan thanked all the contributors. Pat commented that Legend is getting better and better and is highly regarded. Alan reported that he'd emailed lots of Australian clubs to promote Forest Challenge, as well as posting a game to an Australian orienteering magazine. Alan had brought some of his booklets of spoof articles, which he is selling for £2 each, all of which goes to the South West Junior Squad.
12. **WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Gill was still waiting to hear the final decision on whether we need CRB checks.
13. **DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** The Chairman's report and associated discussion had covered NGOC's development activities.
14. **AWARD OF TROPHIES AND PRIZES:** Prizewinners were as follows:

Terry Bradstock Trophy:

Joe Taunton and David Lee had very similar scores. If Joe's run on M21L at the JK is counted, Joe wins, but there was an M21E course on offer at the JK, so taking the rules strictly Joe's run on M21L does not count. The trophy therefore goes to David, whom we are pleased to see back orienteering. Both were congratulated. The calculation had not been made easier this year as hoped, but the new league which Greg had noticed may help with this next year .

NGOC Minileague:

Blue:

Winner – Andy Munro (HOC) 5177 points; 1st NGOC - Peter Ward, 2nd, 5033 points;

1st lady - Caroline Craig (NGOC) 4th, 3681 points.

Green:

Winner – Dudley Budden (BOK) 4880 points; 1st Junior – Zac Hudd (BOK), 3rd, 4302 points;

1st NGOC – Dave Hartley 4th, 4233 points.

Orange:

Winner – Joe Hudd (BOK) 4611 points; 1st NGOC - Ashleigh Denman, 2nd, 4165 points;

1st Junion – Calum Smillie (NGOC), 6th, 2858 points.

Yellow:

Winner – Rebecca Ward (NGOC) W9, 4831 points; Second – Patrick Tate (Ind), M14, 3868 points;

Third – Kieran Baker (HOC), M14, 3165 points.

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

Carol announced that it had been decided not to award a prize to the winner of the summer league, but as Pat did such a good job in organising (and winning) it, awarded him a prize.

Pat asked people to think about whether we should have more awards.

15. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

John Coleman had agreed to stand for Fixtures Secretary, and his appointment to the role was agreed. Pat asked whether anyone else would like to join the committee, not necessarily with a specific role, but there were no takers. The rest of the committee will continue in their roles.

Much of what Paul currently does is printing and controlling, rather than mapping. We very much appreciate the very high quality of the extra service he provides when printing, so he will continue to do this. Kim Liggett has agreed to informally be an Assistant Mapping Officer and may take over from Paul in the future. She will begin by becoming familiar with OCAD, taking on a map librarian role and doing some maintenance of maps, but is also keen to do some mapping. People should

continue to liaise with Paul on mapping matters for now, as we don't yet know how much time Kim will have for this.

16. CHANGES TO CLUB CONSTITUTION:

The following amendment to paragraph 3 of the NGOC Club Constitution was proposed:

To be changed from:

3. Membership

Membership shall comprise the officers and members of the club. There shall be three categories of membership:

(a) Full membership which includes membership of the national body on a National or Local basis.

(b) Club-only membership for those who wish to take part only in NGOC activities.

(c) Honorary Life Membership.

Senior, Junior and Family memberships shall be available in each category. Additionally, Group membership of NGOC (category (b) above) shall be available.

To:

3. Membership

Membership shall comprise the officers and members of the club. There shall be three categories of membership:

(a) Full membership which includes membership of the national body ~~on a National or Local basis.~~

~~*(b) Club only membership for those who wish to take part only in NGOC activities.*~~

(b) Club only membership for full members of other clubs who wish to join NGOC as a second club

(c) Honorary Life Membership.

Senior and Junior ~~and Family~~ memberships shall be available in each category.

Additionally, Group membership of NGOC (category (b) above) shall be available.

This amendment was proposed by Chris James and seconded by Roger Coe, and will therefore take effect.

17. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Chris had brought some orienteering maps of a Danish town, which were available for the public to use. The maps just had control circles marked and a separate sheet showed photos to match up to the points. Some historical information about the points was also included. This was presented as a good example of doing something a bit different.

18. **CLOSE:** The meeting closed at 9.10pm. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.