

## NGOC AGM 2013 – Reports from Committee Members

### **NGOC Chairman's Report for 2013**

In 2012 we did a number of things which were aimed at increasing participation, and making it easier and better for club members to get involved in planning, organising and helping at events. We also had to deal with the impact of BOF's major changes in membership and levy funding. 2013, by contrast, has been more a year of consolidation. The membership and levy schemes have been in place for nearly a year, and you will hear from our Treasurer how these have affected our finances. Some of the other initiatives we introduced last year – the use of advisers to support event organisers, and the development of an event archive as a resource for future organisers - have sometimes struggled to take root, and become business-as-usual aspects of our fixtures, but perhaps only one year in it's too soon to say whether these things will prove to be useful, or will atrophy.

On the wider front, it seems to have been a quiet year from BOF's perspective. BOF has perhaps been pre-occupied with Sport England's decision to reduce funding, and so oblige them to rethink their approach to development and participation. Then they have the World Championships to think about as well, and their focus at club and regional level appears to have been largely on volunteering, inward looking rather than outwards to the non-orienteeing public. We have not had a great deal to do with BOF this year.

At the regional level as well, there has been little to report. SWOA ticks along, but is struggling to find volunteers for some of its key roles, and with some of the old guard such as Arthur Vince stepping down as secretary, I feel that despite the best efforts of those who are prepared to put lots of time into SWOA, the Association will continue to be of little or no interest or relevance to you as club members, nor indeed to us as a club. I stress that this is not intended to be a slight on all those who put huge amounts of work into SWOA, and British Orienteering. However I do wonder if it reflects

At the local level, the winter season suffered from the cancellation of one mini-league, and entry numbers were somewhat down on the 2011/2012 season, though not by as much as I incorrectly reported in a recent Legend. The summer series once again drew respectable numbers, though not the newcomers we were hoping for. As well as these programmes, we ran a series of events for Bournside school (none of which resulted in any further involvement by children from the school!), we attended one day of the Gloucestershire Sportsfest (again with no return on the investment in time and effort by quite a few club members), and we introduced maize maze orienteeing, successfully and hopefully as a regular item in our programme. Membership numbers are nevertheless looking encouraging. Furthermore I noticed in the latest CompassSport that we have climbed 11 places in the annual club rankings list, to 44<sup>th</sup> place out of the 80 clubs ranked, so we are becoming a bit more competitive as a club.

In summary then, we have ticked along, and done what I think we have always done – we have put on a high quality programme of events which is much respected and appreciated by the region's orienteers. It goes without saying that this is all down to the Committee, who make the running of the club and its activities a pleasure to be involved with, the many of you who do the day to day work at events, and all of you who come and run.

We can't, however, sit back and relax. Despite what I have said about membership numbers we are still not attracting enough newcomers to our events and to the club. One of the downsides of maintaining a strong fixture list throughout the year is that we risk over-using our areas, and we have not kept up with the growing interest in urban orienteeing. It is also becoming more clear with each event that our maps need significant review and update. We therefore face a few decisions as to what we do in the coming year to maintain and improve the vitality of the club. Although I shall be stepping down as Chairman of the club, I shall continue to do what I can to tackle these issues and support your new Chairman.

Pat Macleod

## **Secretary's Report 2011-2012**

The committee has met five times this year at the Oxstalls campus.

I have dealt with various items of correspondence, mostly emails, mostly from British Orienteering, SWOA and people interested in coming to our events.

After the first delivery of new club tops proved popular, I put in a second order with Trimtex. At last count, we had just 17 left, in various sizes.

Caroline Craig, October 2013

## **Treasurer's report to 2013 AGM**

At the time of writing the accounts have not been examined, so at the AGM you will be invited to approve the accounts subject to examination.

The Income and Expenditure page shows what happened during the year, with figures for last year down the left-hand side for comparison. The Balance Sheet shows how the year's results affect our overall financial position.

Bottom line: another good year, with a very small surplus, despite the increase in levies from January 2013 (which ironically affects small events far more than large ones). However, we received some £850 net from Croeso 2012 so would have made a considerable loss on the year without this.

## **Income and Expenditure**

### **General Income** (everything except income from events)

Membership - slightly down on last year, but we have recently had several new members sign up, which is good news.

Mapping - for the first time for several years we received no income from printing maps for others. This may change in future as we are considering buying a second printer which could handle A3 size maps and allow us to spread the printing load as well as providing back-up for our aging laser printer.

SI hire - not very much this year, but still a useful source of occasional income.

Forest Challenge - Alan's game is still selling, though more slowly.

Interest on our Deposit Account went up by a whole 6p this year!

### **Routine Expenditure** (all the things it takes to keep us going, apart from spending on events)

Committee expenditure was very low - please don't hesitate to claim for postage/printer cartridges etc.

Subscriptions - this includes both 2012 and 2013 club Brit-O affiliation.

Mapping - mostly consumables (waterproof paper and toner cartridges) which are quite expensive, though toner seems to be coming down in price. Only one new map this year, Woodchester.

Legend costs - mainly for consumables and postage, as most members receive it in soft copy.

Forest Challenge - we made a donation of £200 to the Woodland Trust from profits on the game. Overall we seem to have made a loss, but Alan has plenty of material in stock.

'Other' under Sundries covers such items as web hosting, engraving the Terry Bradstock Trophy - and a refund for a paid for a lost hired dibber which turned up over a year later at Cranham (and still downloaded).

Our Routine Expenditure far exceeds our General Income, because we derive most of our income from events.

## **Events**

The surplus on Informals increased, but we raised the price to that of minileagues so this was expected. Minileagues, WNL and summer weekday events all had a lower surplus this year, due mainly to the increase in Brit-O and SWOA levies from January 2013, but increased numbers at summer Saturday events gave a similar surplus to last year. The Galoppen did slightly less well than last year. The total surplus on Events was some £700 lower than the previous year, but given the lower excess of general expenses over income (thanks to the Croeso receipts) the final outcome overall was a surplus on the year of just under £60. This is very satisfactory, given we have made donations of £385 during the year - £150 from NYD to Pied Piper; £200 to Woodland Trust from Forest Challenge; and £35 to SWJS from the sale of Alan's 'Spoof' booklet.

Now that we have seen the effect of the levy increases I propose that from January 2014 we raise the fees for minileague to £5 senior (£6 for independents), £2 junior, but leave the Informal and WNL fees at £4/£1. Minileague fees were last raised for the 2008/9 season. The February Galoppen will have the same fees as last year, with reduced rates for White/Yellow/Orange courses and half fees for helpers. We will continue to subsidise relay/CSC entries (and coach hire for Compass Sport Cup events) but from January will ask relay/CSC competitors to pay at minileague rates for their entry. Should we enter the Yvette Baker trophy again (we do seem to have new juniors joining, which is brilliant) the club will pay those entry fees in full.

## **Club Membership fees**

We will retain a club membership fee (£4 seniors, free for juniors), but I see no need to raise it next year. 'Club-only' membership, at the same rates, will be available to full members of other clubs who wish to join NGOC as a second club.

## **Balance sheet**

The second page shows our overall financial position. We have over £10000 in cash assets (and a small stock of new O-tops worth about £500) so are in a healthy position. We are however considering buying a second printer and base data to enable us to update many of our maps (including most importantly those for the Caddihoe/VHI next autumn) and create urban maps. We expect to do most of the work ourselves.

I will be happy to provide further detail or explanations at the AGM.

Carol Stewart

07 October 2013

**Name: Simon Denman**

**Role: Membership Secretary**

AGM 2013

Previous membership figures 22/4/13:

Membership	Lapsed	Current
2nd Club		1
Family	20	78
Junior		3
Life		1
Senior	20	57
Student	2	
Grand Total	42	140

Current membership figures 9/10/13:

Membership	Lapsed	Current
2nd Club		2
Family	14	83
Junior		9
Life		1
Senior	17	64
Student	2	
Grand Total	33	159

There have been a number of joiners over the last 6 months. A very significant number have joined over the last month (11) and this could be due to publicity as a result of the summer series.

### Fixture Secretary Report

Part of my job for this year was already done – that of assisting in the selection of events and compiling a list – a job I will look forward to in the coming year for the first time.

This left me with firstly obtaining permissions. Information on obtaining permissions, passed to me by Dave H, totally blew my mind! No consistency anywhere – some areas have more than one landowner, and not only do National Trust and Natural England do things differently, but all the areas covered by Natural England have their own way of doing things. I'm sure Woodchester will be different again. Eventually I constructed an easy-to-read chart and was able to make good progress. The 2014 NE permissions request will be left till after Christmas to suit Paul Hackman.

The last major part of my job - that of assigning organisers – seemed to go quite well, although the comment has been made that mostly the same people came forward. I'm extremely grateful to them all and hope they enjoyed their events.

I believe I may have slipped up in not always informing organisers of Rangers that they need to contact. I will make sure I do that from now on.

I promise to organise at least one event next year, and to take part in a street event – I haven't managed that yet!

John Coleman

## **Mapping Officer's Report – Paul Taunton**

### **Map Printing**

A total of about 35 "events" printed this year, the same as last year, almost exclusively for NGOC, but including about 5 for other groups (including BOK army, schools and a running club).

This year the page counter has reached almost 56,000 pages. That's over 40,000 pages since I started printing maps almost exactly 5 years ago. This year's total was about 6,000 pages, much the same as it has been for the last 2 years. It includes mainly maps and control descriptions, but also sometimes instructions, entry forms and flyers.

The printer is still running OK, but it's now over 6 years old and the extended warranty and "on site" service agreement have now expired, so if there was a major breakdown getting it repaired could be difficult. It may be worth considering buying a backup to avoid problems if there is a sudden major printer failure.

We have continued to make cost savings by re-using the backs of waterproof maps left over from previous events both for maps and for control descriptions, but I now have no stock of re-useable A4 paper, though I have a large stock of offcuts suitable for control descriptions.

### **Map Updates**

Updating of maps has been ongoing, generally by planners passing me maps marked with corrections. More thorough revisions were not considered worthwhile, whilst LIDAR data for the Forest of Dean (required to produce more accurate contours and location of "brown" features) remained unaffordable.

As the Chairman will report to you, the Environment Agency has recently changed their policy on use of LIDAR data and Pat has downloaded it free of charge for NGOC use, so in future any major map updates could be based upon this improved data.

## **New Maps**

Several new maps have been used for the first time during this season:

**Woodchester Park**, survey by a team of NGOC members & OCAD by Bob Teed, first use is planned for a Minileague on 7 December 2013.

**Maize Maze**, survey & OCAD by Pat Macleod, first used for Summer Saturday 20 July 13, but will need to be redrawn every year!

**St Briavels Street Map**, survey & OCAD by Pat Macleod, first used for Xmas 2012 treasure hunt organised by the Stott family for Chepstow Harriers (and NGOC).

Apologies if I have forgotten any other new maps!

## **Mapping Developments**

Pat Macleod has been looking at future mapping developments and is presenting some draft maps to this meeting.

## **NGOC Equipment Report for 2013**

We have had a fairly economic year equipment wise, with few major expenditures. John Fallows has begun a rolling programme of replacing batteries in the SI units, and we have procured a second large splits printer. We have however, damaged beyond repair one of the smaller splits printers, and we currently feel unnecessary to replace it, given that we only use the small printers for informals and summer events.

The club tents are showing signs of age, but with some needlework should keep going for another year or two.

We have a large set of results boards, funded by JK2010, which were loaned to JK 2013 and BOC 2013, and will be going to the CompassSport Cup Final shortly. BOF nearly acquired these to become part of their central kit store following BOC 2013, but no one in BOF seemed particularly interested in them, and I decided to hang on to them.

The club colour laser printer is now quite old, and we are considering whether we should buy a second printer, both as a backup, to spread the printing load, and potentially, at A3 size, to allow us to print large scale urban maps.

I do have quite a lot of now redundant equipment, and have started to clear it out. Most is of no use and will be dumped, but I will advertise stuff that might be of use to someone.

I do not anticipate any other major expenditure on equipment in the coming year.

Pat MacLeod

# Captain's Annual Report 2013

As usual, we managed to send teams to all of the senior team events in 2013.

The first team event of the year was the **Compass Sport Trophy**, also known as the British Club Championships. Following the yo-yo tendency of recent years, we were again back in the Trophy competition for smaller clubs. This was good news as it gives us a much greater chance of success than against the big boys in the Cup. We selected to take part in the regional qualifying round at The Wrekin in February. Most of us travelled on the team coach from Gloucester, and with 45 in our team, we were far more numerous than any of our competitors. Fortunately, this advantage in quantity was matched by an advantage in quality, and we convincingly beat the 5 clubs competing against us to win through to the final for the second time in three years.

As you all know, the final will be held this coming weekend on 20<sup>th</sup> October at Moseley Green/Danby Lodge. Not only do we have home advantage, but we also have a whopping great team of 60 individuals. At least one thing's for sure: if we fail to win, it won't be due to any apathy in our members. Good luck to all involved. I am particularly pleased to have 6 juniors in the team this time, which includes 4 new members. This seems like a gift from heaven at just the right time, and is something we should try to build on.

At Easter, **The JK** was in the Chilterns. We had 4 teams competing. The best performance came in the mixed ad-hoc team of me, Joe Taunton and Pat Cameron, finishing in the top quarter of the field. The other teams finished in the lower reaches of their classes.

The **British Relays** were held in May in the hills of Surrey. We managed just 2 teams, both finishing nearer the bottom than the top.

The **Harvester Relay** took place at the end of June at the army's Longmoor Camp in Hampshire. We entered two teams: a 7 person team in the A relay and a 5 person team in the B relay. For once, both teams finished without disqualification, although nowhere close to the medal positions. A good time was had by all at this enjoyable over-night challenge.

Although it is not a team competition, it was good to see 32 club members at **the Scottish 6 Days** at Moray in August. We held our own little NGOC league, so for once we were guaranteed a winner! The top 4 were Joe Taunton, Pat Macleod, Neil Cameron and Matt Stott, so well done to them.

As always, there is plenty to look forward to **next year**. The Compass Sport Cup qualification round will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> February, possibly at Kinver Edge. At Easter, the JK will be in the South Wales. The Harvester will be earlier than usual, on 18<sup>th</sup> May in Surrey. The British Champs will be held at the end of June in Northumberland. With the influx of new juniors, it may finally be the year to put a team in some of the junior team events. Fingers crossed!

Greg Best

## Legend Editor's Report – Alan Brown

### Legend

Six issues again this year with plenty of articles and photographs – please keep them coming! If you haven't yet contributed to Legend you are welcome to submit a photograph or article – or just a couple of lines to go in "Brashings". Or even just an idea for an article if you don't want to write it yourself.

## **Forest Challenge**

About 330 copies of the orienteering board game have been sold to date, raising money for the Woodland Trust. This will be the fourth and last Christmas that the game will be promoted although, as it produced at home, copies can be made on demand.

## **Urban-O**

A variation on Forest Challenge, this includes Photo-O, Maze-O and two versions of String-O (for the very young orienteer). This will be on sale for Christmas 2013 only.

### **NGOC – Welfare Officer's Report - AGM – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

I have no incidents or concerns to report with regard to the club or local level, and look forward to an equally quiet year ahead!

Gill James, NGOC Welfare Officer

07.10.2013