

# NGOC AGM 2014 – Reports from Committee Members

## NGOC Chairman's Report 2014

I took over as Chairman at a vibrant time for the Club. Pat had been working on increasing participation and whilst we have continued this year with the summer series our whole local event structure is in the process of changing. I have been working through the requirements for continued Club Mark participation, which BOF are currently reviewing and hopefully this will be finalised next year.

The buzz words at the moment is sustainability of volunteers. Chris James' committee at BOF have been exploring this issue. To this end we are looking at increasing our controllers, within the club. This leads to the general issue of not just controllers, but planners and organisers as well. SWOA, in particular Christine Vince, is drawing up an action plan for volunteer development. Volunteers are the life blood of orienteering within the Club. Don't feel that just because you haven't tried planning or organising, that it is a black art, only for the more experienced orienteers, have a go, help is always at hand.

We tried our hand at the Cotswold relay and came 46<sup>th</sup> out of 90 entries, so more to come next year. Our crowning glory for the year though was hosting the Caddihoe Chase and VHI, which show that despite being a small club, we can put on large events with style.

It has been an interesting year in many ways, but it can only be done through the hard work of your committee, who I cannot thank enough. I look forward to the next year and will continue to work hard, to maintain our Club's standing within British Orienteering.

Gary Wakerley

## **Secretary's Report 2013-2014**

The committee has met five times this year at the Oxstalls campus. A wide range of topics were discussed, as always. Of particular note is the adoption of a new 12-month league, to incorporate both our winter and summer events.

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

Of particular interest was an email from a founding member of NGOC, John Parsons, who was very pleased to find our website and see we are still active. He has donated a box full of early Legends, maps and other interesting things, which we will be forming into an archive.

With our stock of new club tops again running low, especially long-sleeved tops, I put in a third order with Trimtex. We're now well-stocked again so it's a good time to get yours.

Caroline Craig, October 2014

## **Treasurer's report to 2014 AGM**

As last year, 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: a large loss on the year (£1800) but since the end of the FY we have received over £6000 in entry fees for the Caddihoe, so no need to panic! We are also expecting some money from the JK in recognition of our help. Large expenses during the year included a new printer which can handle A3-size paper (needed for urban maps), more SI and other kit for the Caddihoe, more O-tops and more teams entered for relays etc.

## **Income and Expenditure**

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

Membership - slight increase on last year, which is encouraging.

Mapping - small amount from printing maps for others.

SI hire - includes £180 for hire to the JK.

Forest Challenge - Alan's game is still selling, though he intends to finish at Christmas.

Relay etc entries - we now ask team members for a contribution.

### **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 - last year was higher as it included 2 years' affiliation to British Orienteering.

Mapping - mostly consumables (waterproof paper, new printer charges and toner cartridges for the old printer). Some expenditure on Mallards Pike remapping and Cranham extension.

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

Equipment - large increase on the previous year thanks to the new printer (which we have on a semi lease basis so pay a fee per print each quarter but are supplied with toner cartridges); additional SI equipment so we are now self-sufficient; update to our SI software.

Forest Challenge - we will make another donation to the Woodland Trust when Alan wraps up his project.

Donations - in addition to the donation to Forest Community Media we also donated £100 to the Orienteering Foundation from the re-scheduled New Year's Day event - this is included under Event expenditure.

'Other' under Sundries covers such items as engraving the Terry Bradstock Trophy, travel (other than for courses) and postage.

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

## **Events**

The surplus on Informals was down on last year, as entries were also down and expenses were higher. Minileagues, WNL and summer weekday events all did better than last year and the CS Cup warm-up event was a useful extra. The increase in minileague fees from January 2014 made a noticeable difference. The summer Saturday events were not well supported (except the Maize Maze) but still

managed a small surplus. Despite a low turnout the Galoppen also managed a good surplus, though down on the previous year. The total surplus on Events was some £1300 higher than the previous year, but given the unusually large excess of general expenditure over general income, the final outcome was a loss on the year of just over £1800. We had received very little of the Caddihoe entry money before the end of the FY, so this together with the expected contribution from the JK means that we are not in any danger of going into the red, and I see no need to increase our event fees for the coming year. We will continue to subsidise team events and coach fares for CS cup, and should we enter the Yvette Baker trophy again, now we have a few more juniors, the club will pay those entry fees in full.

## Balance sheet

The second page shows our overall financial position. We have nearly £8500 in cash assets (and a stock of new O-tops worth about £750 in sales) so continue to be in a healthy position.

## 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.

## Financial Year

If, as proposed, we change our 'season' to run from Jan - Jan from 1.1.15, I suggest we also change our financial year to match, by having a 16-month 'year' 1.9.14 - 31.12.15 and then starting afresh from 1.1.16.

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

Carol Stewart  
07 October 2014

**Name: Simon Denman**

**Role: Membership Secretary**

AGM 2014

Previous membership figures 9/10/13:

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

Current membership figures 29/9/14:

Membership	Lapsed	Current
2nd Club		2
Family	12	80
Junior	1	10
Life		1
Senior	14	66
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>159</b>

Membership numbers have remained level over the year with a small number of lapsed members replaced by new intake.

### Fixture Secretary Report 2013/2014

I believe that, generally, our 2013/2014 events went well, despite the ambitiously full calendar which included a revamp of the old 'Informals', now known as Training Events.

Unfortunately, my participation in events last season was low and almost non-existent this season - including no training events – so I don't know if the objectives of the Training Events were met successfully.

A point that did arise this season was that Mr Tyson, the landowner of Cranham Woods, claimed that he had no prior knowledge of the event of 19<sup>th</sup> July. To avoid this happening again I will remind Natural England organisers individually to contact the relevant landowner 2 weeks before the event date, if this is acceptable and also, in the case of Cleeve Hill, to contact the Warden and Conservation Officer.

I plan also to forward a copy of the National Trust 'Consent to hold an Event' to the relevant organisers. These consent forms include a list of Organisers responsibilities plus Ranger's tel. nos. and are far more relevant to Organisers than to the Fixture Secretary.

My grateful thanks to all the Organisers for volunteering and doing a good job. Please keep up the good work!

I am prepared to continue for another year if necessary, but I cannot now contribute to fixture meetings and am consequently out of touch with a lot of the thinking of those who do attend them.

John Coleman (Fixture Secretary)

## **Mapping Officer's Report for 2014 AGM**

### **Map Printing**

A total of about 35 to 40 "events" printed this year, a couple more than last year, almost exclusively for NGOC, but again including a few for other groups (including events for the Army at Caerwent & Cranham, and for "BOK army").

The "old" A4 Konica Minolta printer has now reached an overall total of almost 60,000 pages. The year's total was almost 4,000 pages printed, but the printer went into semi-retirement in January and is now held by Pat MacLeod. Since January he has printed mainly test maps, entry forms and flyers but also helped me by printing the Maze and Pittville maps for our summer series. It has been agreed by the committee that we will keep this printer as a backup and continue to buy consumables.

The new printer is a Xerox Phaser 7100 and can print A3. The quality is improved compared to the old printer, most particularly the consistency of colours during a print run. We did use it to print almost 300 maps for the VHI relays (run on day 2 of the Caddihoe) and had no complaints regarding print quality. The Xerox has already passed 5,000 prints, so our overall total print approaching 9,000 pages is quite a bit more than the 6,000 odd last year. I am printing more generous numbers and the VHI Caddihoe certainly consumed a large number of test prints.

We have continued to make cost savings on waterproof paper by re-using the backs of waterproof maps left over from previous events. I now have stocks of re-useable A3 and A4 paper and some offcuts suitable for control descriptions.

We have recently changed to a slightly thinner waterproof paper (120gsm compared to 150gsm) and I haven't heard any complaints.

It is possible to print "2up" on the Xerox, i.e. two A4 pages on an A3 sheet, which reduces print costs (but not paper costs). However there are some disadvantages and it is also more time consuming so I have not generally done this. (*I'm happy to explain technicalities in the unlikely event that anybody is interested!*)

## Map Updates

Pat MacLeod prepared a new base maps for Mallards Pike and Blakeney Hill based on LIDAR data and Pat and Bob Teed then updated the maps, so that new maps were available for the Caddihoe Chase.

Other minor updates have continued as usual.

## New Maps

Quite a few new maps have been used for the first time during this season, mainly "urban", including:

**Chepstow Street Map:** survey & OCAD by the Stotts, first used for a BOK event in their summer evening series of events.

**NGOC Summer Series street maps, A3 size, 1:5,000 scale:** The summer series has this year been run on "proper" O-maps rather than the old hand drawn outlines. Examples are Abbeymead and Barnwood in Gloucester and Hatherley in Cheltenham largely thanks to Pat MacLeod assisted by on-the-ground amendments by Greg, Caroline, Dave (and no doubt others I have forgotten to mention).

**Maize Maze,** survey & OCAD by Pat as it needs to be redrawn every year!

Several other maps are "in preparation" (including **Ross-on-Wye**, surveyed and drawn by Richard Cronin and **Cranham**, extended northwards by Greg Best) but have yet to be used.

Paul Taunton

## NGOC Equipment Report for 2014

Our main equipment expense this year has been printer related. As proposed at the last AGM we have purchased a new A3 laser printer, at a cost of just under £900, and have also bought a full set of cartridges for the old printer, at a cost of around £800.

The new printer was bought under a Xerox pay as you go contract, which means that we pay for consumables on a per page printed basis. It's perhaps a little early to say whether this will prove a good deal or not, but it should prove economic to run the printer this way, particularly if we can master the process of printing 2 A4 pages on a single A3 sheet.

The old club printer continues to run satisfactorily, and is now used for occasional map printing, plus production of such things as event reistration slips, flyers for events, and so on. It has printed around 1,000 pages since being replaced as the main club printer in January 2014.

Printers aside, we have purchased a number of smallish items of equipment to facilitate organisation and

running of our events, such as a leisure battery to power computing resources at mini-leagues and other smaller events (£80), and A3 laminator (£27), a megaphone (£28), and various spares for the club tents. Although the models we have are no longer made by Khyam (or rather, have been superseded by a slightly different design) there is a comprehensive range of spares available, so I think the club tents will continue in service for a few more years yet.

I don't anticipate any major equipment expense in the coming year.

Pat MacLeod

## Captain's Annual Report 2014

Although orienteering is primarily an individual sport, there are a number of important events each year where we get to compete as a team. As usual, our club entered team(s) in most of these.

As always, the first team event of the year was the **Compass Sport Cup**, also known as the British Club Championships. Following the yo-yo tendency of recent years, our status had once again been re-assigned to "large club", so we were again back in the Club competition. This meant stiffer competition, and much less chance of progressing to the final. We selected to take part in the regional qualifying round in the New Forest in February. Once again, we had a magnificent turn-out of over 50 club members, and of those, 30 travelled on the team coach from Gloucester. In spite of this, we managed only 5<sup>th</sup> out of the 6 teams taking part there. Nevertheless, a good and sociable day-out was enjoyed by all.

At Easter, **The JK** was in South Wales, with the relay day in the tricky, technical area of Pwll Du. We entered 8 teams of 3. Of these, the best performance was in the Veteran Men class with Chris Harrison, John Fallows and Andy Stott finishing 25<sup>th</sup> out of 63. The Senior Women team of Heather Findlay, Helen Moorhouse and Gill Stott came 13<sup>th</sup> out of 20 in their class. As nearly all of us were also helping out with the organisation on that day, it was only thanks to Pat Macleod's meticulous planning that everybody managed to be at the start in time for their run. An impressive achievement!

The **British Relays** were held far away in the north-east of England. With David Lee being NGOC's only entry for the individual day, this unfortunately meant that there was no hope of entering a relay team. I did try to encourage David to be a one man team, running all three legs, but he was not tempted!

The **Harvester Relay** took place in May in the Surrey Hills. We entered two teams: a 7 person team in the A relay and a 5 person team in the B relay. The A team were disqualified for a mis-punch, which has become something of a tradition for NGOC teams in this competition in the years I have been captain. The B team finished 17<sup>th</sup> out of 27. A good time was had by all at this enjoyable over-night challenge.

This year, for the first time, NGOC entered a team in the **Cotswold Way Relay**. This is a 10 leg relay, running the 100 mile length of the Cotswold Way from north to south. It involves no navigation, apart from the ability to notice direction signs. Although we did finish about 4 hours behind the winners, we were placed a very creditable 46<sup>th</sup> out of 90 teams. The running order was myself, "a friend of a friend", Dave Hartley, Steve Williams, Richard Cronin, Pat Macleod, Gary Wakerley, Chris Harrison, Scott Johnson, and finally Joe Gidley on the down-hill glory leg into Bath. All was expertly managed by Gill Stott.

As ever, there is plenty to look forward to **next year**. The Compass Sport Cup qualification round will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, probably at Eastnor in the south of the Malverns. At Easter, the JK will be in the Lake District. The British Champs will be held in April in the Forest of Dean, with the relays at Cannop Ponds. The venue for The Harvester has not yet been announced, but this will be held at the end of June.

Greg Best

### Legend Editor's Report – Gill Stott

This is my first year as Legend editor.

An edition of Legend is sent out about every two months. The large majority of these is electronically sent, with less than a dozen printed. At present there has been a good response to a call for contributions and it has been good to receive articles on adventures allied to orienteering such as mountain marathons and adventures races which members have competed in. I could do with more photographs of an orienteering nature, especially more unusual or amusing ones.

I have tried to include an O skills section and I am trying to set up orienteering skills training with the intention of setting up days for those new to orienteering up to technical difficulty (TD) 3, and more advanced days for those wanting to compete in TD5 competitions.

I am always keen to hear your suggestions on what else you might like to see in your magazine, just drop me a line and let me know [legend@ngoc.org.uk](mailto:legend@ngoc.org.uk)

### **NGOC – Welfare Officer's Report - AGM – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

There have been no incidents or concerns reported to me with regard to the club or local events. I look forward to an equally quiet year ahead!

Gill James, NGOC Welfare Officer  
04/10/2014

### **NGOC Development Report for 2014**

There have been three main strands to our development programme this year:

- ⤴ Improve the summer programme to try and attract more newcomers
- ⤴ Introduce training events to replace Informals
- ⤴ Review and update our overall event programme, to reflect changes in orienteering activity across the O-community as a whole, and to try and improve the quality and variety of events.

The summer programme once again focussed on Cheltenham and Gloucester, but introduced new maps and linear as well as score courses. Numbers were higher than last year, but still not particularly good, and once again dominated by existing members rather than newcomers. Numbers for the 8 events were as follows(excluding a very few runners on the Score course each event):

Event	Long	Short	Total
Abbeydale	16	7	23
Barnwood	18	10	28

Park Campus	13	14	27
Pittville Park	12	11	23
Abbeymead	13	9	22
Barnwood	11	15	26
Park Campus	15	11	26
Pittville Park	14	7	21
<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>196</b>
Total Runners	45	38	83

We have nevertheless attracted a small handful of new runners, and hopefully soon to be new members, and we will continue the programme at a slightly reduced level in 2015.

We have yet to run any of the new training events, and the first, at Minchinhampton, has had to be cancelled due to lack of someone to plan and organise it. The idea behind these is to offer specific training exercises suited to the area being used, rather than just alternative linear courses to those offered at league events. We will have to see how they shape up, and feedback and comments will be welcome once we get going, with Stephen Robinson's event at Parkend, and mine at Woodchester in December.

Finally, as you will have seen in Legend and elsewhere, and will hear at the AGM, we have revised our fixture list substantially, switching to a calendar year programme based on:

- a 12 event league, which will include urban and park events;
- a slightly reduced summer evening programme;
- a series of training events, which will be supplemented by up to 4 coaching days, the format of which is still in discussion;
- plus our usual complement of score events, some of which will change name but not overall character.

As well as all this we are planning to re-introduce the Double Gloster weekend, aiming at a low key and informal but fun series of events, to be held in 2015 over the early May bank holiday weekend. Current thoughts are for a Gloucester City race on the Sunday as the heart of the programme, with perhaps a middle or classic race on the Saturday, and a Long-O on the Monday. This will depend very heavily on someone volunteering to coordinate the overall weekend, supported by day organisers for each day.

Clearly all of this means more work for volunteers, and as well as running events we would like to schedule training for planners, organisers, and also other volunteers willing to learn how to run the SI technology that all of these events will need. We have invested in updated event software, and plan also to buy the score module to facilitate entry and results processing for our score events.

Finally, all this also means that we need new areas. Thanks to Richard Cronin's efforts we now have a good stock of ISSOM standard urban maps. In addition, Bob Teed has recently mapped the Star College at Ullenwood, near Crickly Hill, and a while ago he mapped Rendcomb College, near Cirencester. We will buy the base data for the Gloucester City centre map, and will extend the suburban maps of Cheltenham and Gloucester for which we already have data. We do need, though to keep looking for new woodland areas, and anyone who knows of somewhere we could look at should let us know.

Pat MacLeod