

NORTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ORIENTEERING CLUB
MINUTES FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in Room TC218A, Oxstalls Campus, University of Gloucester on 12th October 2015

The meeting was formally opened at 8pm, following a buffet.

1. **PRESENT:** Gary Wakerley (Chairman), Pat MacLeod (Equipment/Development officer), Greg Best (Club Captain), Gill Stott (Legend Editor), Roger Coe (committee), Caroline Craig (Secretary), John Fallows (committee), Stephen Robinson (Fixtures Secretary), Carol Stewart (Treasurer), Simon Denman (Membership secretary), Joe Parkinson, Bob Teed, Sheila Miklausic, Steve Williams, Lin Callard, Gaye Callard, Judith Austerberry, Andy Creber, Tim Brett.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Alan and Ann Brown, Hilary Nicholls, Neil and Pat Cameron, Samantha and David Watson, Richard Cronin, Shirley Robinson, Eddie McLarnon, Chris and Gill James, Rodney Archard, Peter and Nikola Poole, Paul and Ros Taunton, Tom Mills, Joe Gidley.

2. **MINUTES FROM 2014 AGM:** These were accepted as a true record (proposed by Stephen Robinson and seconded by Pat MacLeod).
3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Gary reported that the 12 month league seems to be working so we will continue to do it. The downside is that we need more volunteers, but this has been made easier thanks to having a volunteer coordinator.

The Triple Gloucester went really well because people committed to it and it was run really well by Roger, who made sure it went smoothly. Gary thanked Roger for this. Hils did very well in her role of volunteer coordinator, which helped greatly, so it's important that we keep doing this.

Gary thanked Gill Stott, who has been leading our coaching, despite illness. Things are coming on well in this area. Both Roger and Gill were keen to recognise other people's work in what they were being thanked for.

Gary thanked the committee for their work over the year, for going above and beyond.

4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Caroline highlighted the NGOC archive being built up and encouraged people with any memories or stories to get in touch with her or David Lee.
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The accounts had been circulated in advance and showed that we had had an extremely good year, thanks to the Triple Gloucester and Caddihoe Chase. The accounts are with the examiner.

Carol reported that we had decided not to change our financial year to fit the new League season, as it shouldn't make things any easier. We have however submitted an application to change our club mandate, so that only a single signatory is needed for cheques. Once this has been completed, Internet banking and PayPal will be set up.

6. **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance and showed that membership has been fairly stable over the last year or so.
7. **FIXTURES SECRETARY'S REPORT:** A list of 2016 fixtures was passed around, for people to volunteer to organise them. The mentor pool will also be used to assign mentors to these events.

We have submitted a bid to organise the Harvester Relays in 2016. The decision will be made on 17th October. We don't want to hold it on the originally chosen date but on the weekend before, due to a clash with the Cotswold Way Relay.

Pat noted that we need details for events (especially the location details) sooner, so that the website looks more up to date.

8. **MAPPING OFFICER'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Paul had highlighted lower attendance figures for recent league events and it was thought this was most likely just due to them being in the summer and in more urban environments.

We have several new areas in the fixtures list for next season so need some enthusiastic mappers. We have 2 full and 5 starter OCAD 11 licences. Gill Stott highlighted that Chris Johnson (BOK) runs some OCAD/mapping training courses. She will check with him and if he's happy then tell our members about them. It was also noted (later in the meeting) that we could provide some informal mapping help of our own, as we have lots of experts among us.

9. **EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. We have bought (and been using) two new tents and will be getting a proper start clock, as well as a new laptop.

John Fallows and Pat are planning to upgrade our SI firmware, so that touchless punching will be supported. Pat had talked to Martin Stone at the Scottish 6 Days, who believes we're in a reasonable position to do the upgrade. John and Pat will wait until the end of the League and then do the upgrade, hopefully ready for the NYD event. John also had an idea that we could buy a few touchless dibbers and hire them out for a little extra.

10. **CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Greg was very pleased to get 66 at the CSC heat and 13 teams (including 2 Junior teams!) at the British Relays. He thanked Gill S and Richard for masterminding our two successful teams in the Cotswold Way Relay.

Next year, the CSC will be at Cannop Ponds, the Harvester (hopefully) on Cleeve Hill and the British Champs also not too far away at Brown Clee.

Greg wondered whether we now have enough juniors to try the Yvette Baker Trophy or Peter Palmer Relays. He and Gill S will look into this.

11. **LEGEND EDITOR'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. Gill wanted to check people like what's in there. She was glad to have a variety of contributions, including various things "allied to" orienteering. On asking what else people would like to see, the caption competition and other comedy photos proved to be popular.

Legend is now being printed by BML, which is cheaper though still seems expensive. It was pointed out that printing Legend was the reason we started a membership fee in the first place, so this was not thought to be a worry.

12. **LEAD COACH'S REPORT:** This had been included in Gill's report on Legend. She stressed that she was very grateful to people for helping with coaching.

The dream is to have everyone attending training events, to improve their skills. Gill noted the example of OD, where lots of members go to their training weekends away, and they have won the CSC. Gary highlighted that he's hoping to do something like this for the Chairman's Challenge weekend this year. It was suggested we could try and make a deal with another club so that they put something extra on at an event of theirs so that we can use it as training, and we do the same for them at one of our events, in return.

13. **WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance. It was highlighted that Pete Ward is now trained to teach Event Safety Workshops and has also been doing a lot of work in the background on risk assessments etc.

14. **DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** This had been circulated in advance, along with our Development Plan. Pat thanked Gary for his work in compiling the plan. We had made good progress against some areas, though less so against others. In particular, we are no good at marketing and selling ourselves and may have run out of people we know, which is how we had gained new members in recent years. We have no Publicity Officer and orienteering is a tricky sport to sell so we are unlikely to make much progress without skills in this area. It was suggested we pay someone to do this, or use British Orienteering's representative more. It was also noted that in the case of juniors, although they may be keen when they experience orienteering, we need the parents to be too, so that they are happy to bring them. The ideas on a Publicity Officer will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Getting people to come the first time is only the first step. We need to make sure we keep them

wanting to come back. Some ideas of how to achieve this were discussed, bearing in mind that our event format has been the same for a long time so it is time to think about updating it. Examples included having a social aspect, having people available to take youngsters round courses so the parent can run a longer course at the same time, or having a training session at the beginning of events. This will also be discussed at the next committee meeting.

We intend to run a Planners course next year. Tom Mills' "Understanding the Planner" sessions had been well received, though had been intended to help fairly recently started orienteers to understand planners and use that to improve their own orienteering skills. It had actually gone further than that and encouraged some to try their hand at planning.

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

Terry Bradstock Trophy:

Judith Austerberry won, after impressive performances.

NGOC Short Minileague, Autumn 2014:

Blue: Winner Peter Ward, NGOC

Green: Winner Simon Denman, NGOC

Orange: Winner Ashleigh Denman, NGOC

Yellow: 1st Boy Reuben Lawson, NGOC

1st Girl Jessica Ward, NGOC

16. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

All members of the committee were happy to continue in their roles and nobody else asked to stand or was nominated for the committee.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Light Green courses at League events: Gaye Callard had asked whether we could have Light Green courses at our League events, to bridge the significant gap between Orange and Green. While she would find a Light Green more suitable than either of those, our newly found juniors may well also appreciate moving gradually up the technical difficulty (and terrain). The pros (as above) and cons (extra work for planners and printer) were discussed. It was noted that a Light Green course could share controls with both Orange and Green courses, while currently Orange courses are much more likely to share controls with Yellow courses and can therefore end up being dumbed down, increasing the gap between Orange and Green. This had already been discussed at a committee meeting but a decision postponed until we had a better idea of how many people would benefit from it. Gill S will email round a short survey (with Gary suggesting the questions) to get people's views. It will then be discussed at the next committee meeting.

New Years Day event: Andy Creber asked what kind of area Crickley Hill is. It was described as a country park which, although small, has some interesting contour details and a steep escarpment, as well as open parkland and runnable forest. It is small for a score event but this can be overcome by having two sides to the map, "odds and evens", to be done one after the other.

Committee meetings: Andy Creber asked whether anyone else was allowed to attend meetings and contribute to discussions. It was not thought that this would be a problem. If there was something in particular that someone wanted to discuss, they would be especially welcome to come and join in.

Social events: Lin Callard asked whether we had considered surveying members to see whether they actually wanted social events, before going to much trouble to arrange them. Gary suggested a survey could be published for this, similar to the one about Light Green courses. Sheila commented that after MLS events she has learnt really useful things when talking to people at the burger van after the event, so the social aspects aren't always just about being sociable.

Club clothing: Richard had made some designs for jackets. He was interested to know whether people would want a lightweight showerproof jacket or something thick to keep warm after running. A sheet of ideas was provided, for people to indicate what they would like. The opinions were necessary in order to see whether people would pay for jackets, if we bought some. Lin asked if

there was a reason we didn't have names on the latest O tops. It hadn't been offered as an option with these tops.

Note from the Watson family: Samantha Watson had asked to note to the committee and membership how welcome and involved their family feel and how grateful they are for the opportunity the children have to independently compete and succeed in a really supportive environment.

This was very well received.

Buffet: Carol and Caroline were thanked for their efforts in providing the buffet.

18. **CLOSE:** The meeting closed at 9:30pm. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.