

NGOC AGM 2015 – Reports from Committee Members

NGOC Chairman's report 2015

This year has seen the start of our 12 month orienteering calendar. Whilst providing good orienteering for the members, it has put a further strain on volunteers to organise, plan and control these events. My plan last year was to increase controllers, which we did, thanks to Clive Caffall running a course with the support of Caroline Craig. Next year I want to do the same with organisers and planners.

Our notable event, the Triple Gloucester showed how with a great team effort we can run top notch events. It also highlighted the fledgling role of volunteer coordinator, Hillary proved instrumental in providing enough volunteers for the Triple Gloucester. The depth of experience provided by Roger Coe, the overall coordinator for the three days, ensured it ran smoothly.

Alongside our normal events, coaching has increased under our lead coach Gill Stott. Despite being unwell, Gill and her helpers have put on a varied coaching program. Now that Gill is on the mend I see this going from strength to strength.

My project for this year was ensuring the club got recertified for Clubmark. Thanks to all who advised and pointed me in the right direction.

Finally, those members who have served on orienteering committees, will know how much time and dedication it takes to run a club. I would like to thank our committee who go over and above what's required.

Gary Wakerley

Secretary's Report 2014-2015

The committee has met five times this year at the Oxstalls campus. A wide range of topics were discussed, as always.

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

With great help from longstanding club member David Lee, I have been collecting together various historical items for our club archive. There are many interesting stories in old Legends and I've also enjoyed comparing old orienteering maps from areas still used today. I have been picking parts of our history to highlight in a slot in the Legend and hope to continue to do this, as well as in slower time scanning in old Legends and uploading them to the website.

Caroline Craig, October 2015

Treasurer's report to 2015 AGM

I suggested at the last AGM that with the change to a year-long League season from January 2015 we might consider having a 16-month 'year' for 2014/15 and then realigning our financial year to the calendar year from 1 January 2016. However, I realised that this would mean a change to the Constitution so have kept to the original FY end of 31 August. Unless there is strong wish to change, I don't think there is any real need to align our FY with the new-style 'season'.

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 surplus on the year (£9800), thanks mainly to two multi-day events with larger than expected entry, many of them at the higher late entry rate. We also received over £1000 as helper refunds/profit share from JK14.

Income and Expenditure

General Income (everything except income from events)

Membership - slightly down on last year.

Mapping - no map printing for others this year, except for the British Champs Trail-O, included under 'events'.

SI hire - we were paid for the loan of both SI cards and boxes/stakes etc to the British Champs relay.

Forest Challenge - there will be no more sales of Alan's game.

Course grants - we received grants from SWOA towards First Aid, Event Safety and Coaching courses.

The Credit Note from Calendar Lady was the result of a billing error on their part - we used it to pay for one set of Legend printing and extra flyers for the Triple Gloucester.

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

Committee expenditure - the only claim was from the fixtures secretary, for mileage associated with chasing up potential new areas for events, such as Star College and Rendcomb, neither of which we have been able to use as yet. I know we do most of our business by email, but please don't hesitate to claim for postage/printer cartridges etc where appropriate.

Subscriptions - includes a subscription to 'Meet-up', an on-line forum, which brought a few people to events but not enough to be worth renewing the subscription.

Mapping - major expense was urban map data for the Gloucester street map. The rest is mostly consumables - waterproof paper, toner cartridges for the old printer - together with some costs for Cranham and Knockalls updates/extensions. The quarterly charges for the new printer are included under 'equipment'.

Legend costs - printing and postage of some copies, though most members now receive it in soft copy.

Equipment - largest single expense was for 5 OCAD11 licences, but we also bought new tents and paid for repairs/updates to our SI kit.

Club kit - balance due on the last batch of O-tops, plus the running vests.

Sundries - the BBQ provided by Elton Farm was excellent, but quite expensive. Otherwise sundries amounts are much as in previous years. Normally we would have bought prizes (Ultrasport vouchers) for the 14/15 minileague, to present at the AGM, but have decided instead to give small prizes to the winners of the last 4 events in 2014 (prizes bought in the new FY), and will give regular prizes for the 2015 League season. We aim to present the 2015 League prizes at the 2016 New Year's Day event.

Donations - we made a final donation of £350 to the Woodland Trust from the O-game proceeds, and also made donations to Sue Ryder Cheltenham in memory of Les Swindin, who died earlier in the year, and to the Alzheimers Society. A sum of money was found at an event last year and never claimed, so this, together with some member contributions, went to Alzheimers.

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

Events

The NYD and Chairman's Challenge Informals attracted reasonable turnouts, but the training events have had lower turnouts in general than the old 'Informal' events, so the surplus overall is down on last year. However with 11 rather than 8 League events, mostly very well attended, there was a much larger surplus on these. WNL and the summer evening events brought in almost the same amounts as last year; the Army events and Galoppen both did better. But of course the real bonus came from the Caddihoe/VHI in September 2014 and the Triple Gloucester in May 2015, both of which attracted a larger entry than anticipated and were highly successful events. The end result was a very large profit on events and overall a season excess of income over expenditure of just over £9800. We have had some discussion about how best to make use of this money, but meanwhile we will continue to subsidise team events and coach fares if needed for the 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. Event entry fees for Saturday and summer evening events and training will remain at present levels. Fees for larger events are decided on the basis of event budgets but we will continue to keep these at a reasonable level, especially for juniors.

Balance sheet

The second page shows our overall financial position. With over £18000 in cash assets we are in a very 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.

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

Carol Stewart

28 September 2015

Name: Simon Denman

Role: Membership Secretary

AGM 2015

Previous membership figures 29/9/14:

Category	Current	Other	Lapsed
Senior	127	2	21
Junior	28	0	6
Total	155	2	27

Current membership figures 29/9/15:

Category	Current	Other	Lapsed
Senior	127	2	18
Junior	28	0	8
Total	155	2	26

Membership numbers remain unchanged from last year with a small number of lapsed members replaced by new intake.

Fixture Secretary Report 2014/2015

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MAPPING OFFICER'S REPORT for 2015 AGM

Printed LOTS of maps!

A total of about 35 "events" printed this year, similar to last year, almost exclusively for NGOC, but again including a few for other groups, including the "BOK army".

Most were printed on our Xerox Phaser 7100 A3 colour laser printer. I am still printing relatively generous numbers (typically 160 maps for a League event, plus descriptions). The Xerox is now at circa 11,000 prints,

so our total print is similar to the 6,000 odd pages printed last year. Printer consumables are supplied by Xerox, generally on next-day delivery, though recently there was one delay of a week, so I try to order well in advance. We simply pay a charge per page printed, rather than needing to purchase expensive consumables in advance.

The “old” A4 Konica Minolta colour laser printer is still running as a backup machine, and Pat MacLeod has used it to print maps for a few events, including the Maize Maze, plus the usual entry slips, flyers etc.

New Maps

Several new maps were used for the first time this season, mainly “urban”, including:

- Ross-on-Wye surveyed and drawn by Joe Gidley & Richard Cronin
- Newent surveyed and drawn by Richard Cronin
- Gloucester surveyed and drawn by Pat Macleod
- Lydney surveyed and drawn by Richard Cronin & Pat Macleod
- Bishop’s Cleeve surveyed and drawn by Richard Cronin & Pat Macleod
- Cranham extended northwards to include Coopers Hill and southwards to include Sheepscombe, resurveyed and all completely redrawn on a Lidar base by Greg Best

Map Updates

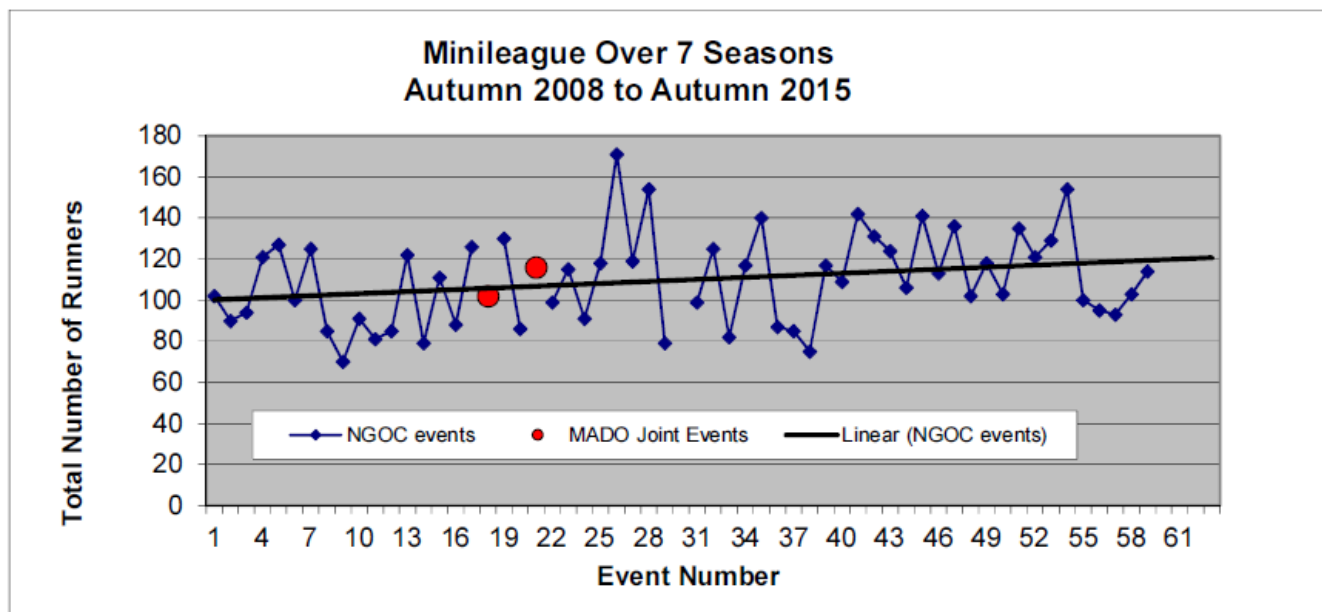
Other minor map updates have continued as usual.

Mapping Software

Generally continuing to use Purple Pen for course planning. Maps generally remain held in OCAD9 format but we now have some OCAD11 licences.

Runner Numbers

The standard print run seems to have led to quite a bit of waste as the last 5 League events all below average numbers of competitors. Does having more league events reduce the turnout at each?



NGOC Equipment Report for 2015

Despite my comment last year on the continued usefulness of the old club tents the committee decided to replace them during the year with the updated, larger, lighter Sports Shelter version of the Khyam quick erect tents. This was prompted in part by ongoing component failures in the old tents, which meant that we had to carry an array of spare parts, and in part to the fact that we could easily afford new ones!

The older tents remain available for use at larger events.

The committee also decided to purchase an electronic start clock, but this transaction has yet to complete; we should have collected the clock from the maker at the Scottish 6 Days but for various reasons did not. The maker said he'd send it but hasn't. If anyone is going to or near Edinburgh in the next few months and could collect it, please let me know!

The older club printer continues to produce event paper – registration slips, info sheets etc – and some maps – mainly for our more informal events. It has printed about 1800 sheets during this year. It has had problems with some colours, but this appears to be due to the cartridges rather than the printer. We will continue to use it as long as it produces reasonable quality outputs. Given its lower overall usage, and unknown remaining workable life, we will in future purchase lower capacity cartridges, at lower overall cost but slightly higher per page cost.

John Fallows has undertaken a major SI unit battery replacement programme during the year, with the result that all units are now showing good battery life, and we should not suffer too many control unit problems arising from batteries running down. This work also positions us to exploit the latest SI firmware upgrades, which are designed to support contactless punching, for those with enabled dibbers (the latest SI Active Cards). We do not yet have a plan to carry out this upgrade, however, and as with any software upgrade we may wish to let others discover the bugs and get them ironed out.

Apart from tents, and in due course, a clock, our main expenditure this year has been on software – 5 OCAD 11 starter licences, and the Score event version of our normal event software, OE2010.

Otherwise we have spent little on equipment during the year, and I am gradually disposing of redundant kit such as large numbers of water carriers, old flags, and general pre-SI stuff.

Pat MacLeod

Captain's Annual Report 2015

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

The first team event of the year was the **Compass Sport Cup**, also known as the British Club Championships. We seem to have settled back into the "large club" category, so we were again in the Club competition. We selected to take part in the regional qualifying round at nearby Eastnor Park, with its fine array of brambles. This year we had 66 club members taking part, which is possibly a record? We narrowly missed out on second place, unfortunately just pipped by Harlequins.

At Easter, **The JK** was far away in the Lake District. We entered 3 teams for the relay day

The **British Relays** were held locally in the Forest of Dean, with the relays at Cannop Ponds. Because of the proximity, we had an impressive 13 teams across a wide range of classes. Happily, this included 2 junior teams.

The over-night **Harvester Relay** took place in June at Rushmore Estate in Dorset. With many club members running in the Cotswold Way Relay on the same day, it was only possible to muster enough for one team of five. For once, we had no mis-punches and nobody in the mini-mass start. A success!

This year, NGOC entered two teams 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. Both teams did well and finished 22nd and 55th overall out of a total of 100 teams. All was expertly managed by Gill Stott, who miraculously managed to pop up and encourage us at the start and finish of nearly all the legs.

As ever, there is plenty to look forward to **next year**. The Compass Sport Cup qualification round will be held on 13th March at Cannop Ponds. At Easter, the JK will be in Yorkshire. The British Champs will be held at the end of April at Brown Clee in the Shropshire Hills. NGOC has volunteered to put on The Harvester at Cleeve Hill in June, which hopefully means we can put out several teams. As we currently have quite a few keen juniors, it would also be nice to try and enter a junior team for one or both of the Yvette Baker Trophy and the Peter Palmer Relays.

Greg Best

Legend Editor's and Lead Coach Report : Gill Stott

Our Legend Magazine has gained a second Compass Sport Magazine top club magazine awards and my thanks go to all those who have contributed in such an interesting and diverse way, from mountain marathons to word searches. Comedy too! Please keep the articles coming, preferably with images if you have them.

The large majority of Legends is electronically sent, with less than a dozen printed. This saves the club a considerable amount of money. For those copies printed the costs have been around £80 using a local printing service. The last copy was printed by BML and the cost is now around £25. Pat McLeod has suggested he could print them but this does take time and effort.

In Legend I am keen to include an O skills section. On some occasions members have performed their own post mortem on an event and shared their experiences with us. These articles are useful as they highlight the areas of concern we often find too.

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

Coaching

At the present time NGOC has three coaches, Gill James and Gary Wakerley as level 1 coaches and myself as a coach nearing level 2 completion. Several other club members offer valuable advice and assistance.

NGOC's new training event programme has attracted a healthy number of orienteers of all abilities, from newcomers to experienced orienteers wanting to perfect their navigational skills. At our training events we have designed a range of activities to suit all abilities and these are linked to previous sessions, from technical difficulty (TD1 -5)

At training events our aim has been to devise a choice of menu of activities, discuss the differing needs of orienteers with them, then suggest a format for their session. Participants can then choose what they would like to do. Some orienteers choose a number of short activities then follow a colour coded course. Others prefer to do their own thing and use an all controls map to devise their own routes and skill training targets. One increasingly popular activity is navigating around an area with a map without paths or tracks marked. We encourage participants to self reflect afterwards on their progress too.

The hope is that as many of our club as possible will try and attend a few sessions over the year, contributions and ideas are always welcome. You will not be bossed around and told what to do – it is all your choice! Other clubs, notably Octavian Droobers, have regular training sessions including a weekend away training, just before the Compass Sport Cup first round. Maybe this is something we should consider doing in the future?

I would like to see the club attracting more junior members and coaching them to be independent orienteers competing at more local, regional and national events.

Before each training event we aim to circulate the format of the event so that members can see what is on offer. Our popularity is spreading and some BOK members have asked to attend too. In the future we may work more on coaching sessions along with BOK and SWOC. Mark Saunders is my mentor and has been offering invaluable advice and support.

If there is a particular area of skills training you would like to see offered at these events, then please let us know: coaches@ngoc.org.uk

NGOC – Welfare Officer's Report - AGM – 12th October 2015

Two areas of concern should be addressed by all of us as Club members.

We should all be aware for the need for discretion when changing. We would not wish to offend anyone, particularly when in car parks with other non-orienteering members of the public.

Of growing importance is the need to be aware that Risk Assessments are carried out for **every** event or activity and **displayed**. NGOC does follow this, but I would like to suggest that we check when attending other Club's or Region's events. This has become a necessity as British Orienteering is finding that the Insurance Company is becoming increasingly edgy about cover. This is not helped by a Major Event which did not produce one, even after the Event was over.

Event Safety Workshops will be put on in house with Pete Ward leading them. Do attend if you can as it is 2 hours well spent.

Gill James, NGOC Welfare Officer

NGOC Development Report for 2015

Part way through the year, and thanks very largely to Gary's efforts, we produced a Development Plan. As with all such documents, it is in part just a tick list required to satisfy other people's tick lists, but it is also moderately useful in helping us to understand what needs doing, and to record progress. The Development plan is attached to this report, and shows status as at April 2015 (when it was originated)

and status now. In summary, I think we have made good progress, though perhaps not enough, in our core objectives of providing services for members, and volunteer development, but not much progress in our traditional areas of weakness – increasing membership and winning things. Personally I think we need to be very good at the first two before we spend too much time on the last two, so our focus is on the right things.

In summary, on the plus side:

- ^ As we said we would, we have changed the league programme from 8 events over the traditional winter season to a 12 month calendar year programme. Although the first season is not yet complete this seems to have been well received, as has been the added variety of events;
- ^ We ran a highly successful Triple Gloucester event in May. One of the highlights of this extremely busy weekend was the way in which Hilary Nicholls – our then newly appointed Volunteer Coordinator – and Gill Stott sought and got all of the volunteer helpers needed for the 3 days;
- ^ Again as we said we would, we have introduced proper training sessions in place of Informals. These, too seem to have been very well received, albeit by relatively small numbers of trainees. Gill Stott has taken the lead in delivering these, ably supported by the other coaches, as well as other club members who have been prepared to come and lend a hand;
- ^ We have run planner, controller and event safety workshops, and now have more level 3 controllers, as well as an Event Safety Workshop trainer, in Peter Ward. We have also trained one more person – Simon Denman - in the use of our event software – OE2010;
- ^ We purchased 5 more OCAD licences, which have been used initially to extend and update our suburban maps, but will also be put to good use in updating our forest maps.

On the minus side:

- We still rely almost solely on word of mouth/friends to seek new members;
- We have not made much progress socialising, or coming up with ideas to support a generally more sociable club atmosphere;
- Although we have a small core of fairly regular junior runners, we don't have a junior club;
- The summer evening programme was not only reduced in the number of events, but also did not prove any more attractive to mid-week runners. We should perhaps review the format and approach to these.

For 2016 I think we need to consolidate the event and training events programmes, and extend our volunteer training activities to include further event safety workshops, as well as OCAD/mapping and OE2010 training. We should also be thinking longer term about what we can do further to make the event programme more attractive to both existing orienteers and newcomers. We have updated the series, and broadened the venues, but the formats are unchanged. Perhaps that is where new thinking is now required.

Pat Macleod

Volunteer Co-ordinator's Report – AGM 12th October 2015

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking Hilary Nicholls for her work in this area. I have taken the role on as a temporary measure and have continued to update our skills list. Please get in touch with me if you need helpers for your event, so that I can put you in touch with someone who is available on the day!

Gill James, NCOG Volunteer Co-ordinator