

North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club

AGM 4th November 2019

REPORTS

Tom Mills Chairman's Report

This has been a year of pursuing the initiatives set over the past 18 months, re-mapping and extending good orienteering area's and keeping the clubs' calendar full of a variety of different styles of events. All of these are closely linked with the provision traditional forest orienteering and a consistent focus on regional ranking events, Maprun targeting a mix of orienteers and street/ track runners, Beat the Trail with direct emphasis on trail runners, an Urban League including one SEOUL, even one mixed urban/ forest event and finally the more relaxed family Maze and BBQ challenge. Think back 10 years and it is quite some change. A key question for the club is; are we, through these initiatives, growing our membership? For me membership growth or at least stability is the most important issue we face. Declining members ultimately equals no members which equals no club and membership will decline if we cannot attract, even cajole people into the sport.

Mapping has been a regular topic of conversation for the committee and as a result we now have 2 historic areas back in play. The first is Soudley Ponds and now Lightning Tree Hill. Both of which are outstanding area's by comparison to some which have seen extensive forestry work. On track for mapping over the next 2 months is Symonds Yat North which has remained 'fallow' for even longer than the two new initiatives. From this might be gained the view that the F.C. have moved their blocking position on parking. Well they have to a degree, but nothing has been tested to see how flexible they have become, and this includes the Western Night League. The new season should shed some light on this. In order to give the club some other options we have reached an agreement with Lydney Park to use their extensive forestry area. When and how we re-map has yet to be agreed but the initial walk around high level survey has been done and is very positive.

Outside of this the club received some good radio advertising via Radio Gloucestershire at the January Woodchester event and continues to promote itself through various internet mediums and weekly communications to members. We could do with however a PUBLICITY OFFICER, please volunteer if you can take on this role. Over the year we have seen Rhiannon move jobs and relocate to London vacating the Volunteer Coordinator role and I pass on the thanks of the committee for all she has done. We however welcome Kevin Brooker into the role and thank him for taking it on.

Socially the biannual Scottish 6 day get together was yet again a cracking experience. Pat with his usual magic found an extremely conducive, quietly posh, country mansion for around 19 of us. Equality prevailing, our original 'Gentleman's Club' was breached and we welcomed our first group of NGOC ladies. The week was then enhanced by getting together with as many other NGOC'ers as we could either out at the pub or over dinner in residence (so to speak).

Finally, there may be a few things that have been missed due to my absence at events. Unfortunately, I have been prone to one injury after another this year and rest seems the only cure. Hopefully I will be in contact with the sport and the news surrounding it more regularly in the forthcoming year.

Good Orienteering.

Tom.

Carol Stewart

Treasurer's report

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 the previous 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 loss on the year of £1742: we spent over £2000 on the new Soudley map , £800 on the latest OCAD licences and £700 on contactless dibbers, we lost 2 events to the goshawks and did not receive most of the income from Fabian4 for the Tewkesbury League event until the new FY. Nevertheless, the events we did hold were mostly well supported, the 'Beat the Trail' additions to 4 of the leagues brought in over £400 overall, and the regular midweek evening events are attracting a new following. We did eventually receive a contribution for our help at the British Sprints in September last year. So overall our financial position is still healthy.

Income and Expenditure

General Income (everything except income from events)

Membership - slightly up on last year - I see no need to raise our club membership fee.

Mapping - a small amount for other clubs - not always for orienteering.

Fewer relay teams were entered this year at the major events, but we still managed to field teams for the Compass Sport Cup and the Cotswold Way Relay - thanks to the organisers of these.

SI hire - kit loans to other clubs/organisations

Shop/café income is still roughly keeping pace with expenditure, and I hope to have biodegradable cups soon.

Alan Brown decided to stop selling his O-games - at which point another order came in!

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

Committee expenditure - we continue to use Innsworth Community Hall at £25/night for meetings; other expenses are mostly print cartridges and mileage, plus refreshments.

Subscriptions - The British Orienteering club subscription went up from £46 to £60, and has gone up again for the coming year, to £70. NGOC is also a member of the Woodland Trust.

Mapping - major expenditure on the Soudley map, and useful additions and upgrades elsewhere. Thanks to club mappers and surveyors for their efforts especially for urban maps and Toadsmoor. The waterproof paper used cost some £640.

Development - another Event Safety Workshop, and further courses, including more ESW's and First Aid, are planned for this year.

Legend costs - The Legend Editor forgot to claim any expenses but assures me he will do so!

Equipment - major investments this year included the latest OCAD licences and a set of 10 contactless dibbers for hire. A reminder that we will pay £10 for old dibbers if people have invested in new ones - so far, we have received two under this scheme! Printer costs (we pay quarterly fees based on the number of pages printed) are included under Equipment and amounted to some £800 this year.

We didn't purchase any new club tops etc. this year but have now done so and these will be on sale at events from now on. We will sell the new tops at the same subsidised price as before - £30 for seniors, £20 for juniors. There are still a number of jackets and running vests available too.

Sundries - the Chairman's Challenge and BBQ at the Maize Maze is quite expensive, as we subsidise both entries and the BBQ. This year's may have been the last Maize Maze as the current owners are looking to sell up - but we will find something to take its place.

Until the Club Championship gets underway and new trophies are available, we will continue to award prizes for the League. These will be given out at the New Year's Day event.

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

Events

We didn't hold anything like the Triple Gloucester or the BOK/OMM weekend this year and losing two potentially well-supported events to environmental concerns (ground nesting birds) meant a significant drop in income from events. But the midweek, especially summer evening, events were very successful. We are now facing more restrictions from the Forestry Commission, both for environmental concerns and over parking on tracks, so expect to have fewer forest events, and in general to look for schools or sports centres where we can park and have some facilities, such as toilets and power. We will continue to subsidise team events and coach fares if needed for the Compass Sport cup. Fees for larger events are decided on the basis of event budgets and comparable events elsewhere but we will aim to keep these at a reasonable level, especially for juniors.

Balance sheet

The second page shows our overall financial position. Despite this year's loss we still have over £15000 in cash assets, so are in good shape financially.

Club Membership and Event fees

I propose that we keep club membership at £4 seniors, free for juniors. '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.

See the separate note on League etc, fees. These were last raised in January 2014 and with new pressures on access and more use of A3 maps costs are rising.

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

I said last year that I aimed to stand down at this year's AGM, but I am willing to continue for one more year if elected but that will definitely be my last.

Shirley Robinson Club Captain's Report

This was my first year as captain for NGOC. During the year teams represented the club at the following events:

Compass Sport Cup qualifying round at Bentley Woods, Atherstone. Forty-five of us made the journey and although we didn't progress to the next stage everyone seemed to enjoy the day and the team gave a good account of themselves. In 2020 NGOC will be hosting the CSC qualifying round on Sunday 15th March. Make a note of the date now so that we have as many club members enter as possible to both run and help.

Cotswold Way Relay.

A team of 10 ran the length of the Cotswold Way and ended up in a creditable 12th position in the Senior Men category. Given that we had ladies and veterans in the team, but not enough of either to enter any other category, that wasn't a bad result. The date for next year is 4th July so put the date in your diaries now.

Adams Avery Relays at Blaise Castle.

These were held on the same day as the Cotswold Way Relay, but we still managed to enter three senior teams. Apparently, a good time was had by all. We also had two junior team in the BOK relays held at the same event. The juniors gave a particularly good account of themselves coming 1st and 2nd in the intermediate age group. Well done guys and gals.

Hopefully the CWR and Adams Avery Relays won't clash next year.

Despite Hilary's and my best attempts to encourage people to take part we didn't manage to enter a relay team for either the JK or the British Championships even though quite a few club members entered individual races for both events.

Lots of people expressed an interest in the Wyedean Relay which was a new event for this year. Unfortunately, a lot of our members were on holiday on 10th August, so we were unable to put a team together. Next year perhaps.

The Harvester Relays weren't held this year though that is an event which we normally enter a team for. Next year they are being held at the end of June in Dumfries so make a note of 28th June in your diaries if this is one of your favourite events.

Thank you to everyone who supported the club in any of the relays and hopefully more of you will be able to do so next year. Thanks also to Hilary for being my right-hand man.

Pat Macleod Equipment Report

We have spent relatively little on equipment this year, the only significant purchases being 10 SIAC dibbers (about £650), and a new battery and smart charger to support computing at events (about £90). Demand for these has not been great, so there is no need yet to consider buying any more even though all of our events are now SIAC enabled. The tents continue to meet our requirements, and do not seem to have suffered any more major pole failures.

There has been some discussion amongst event planners about the desirability of buying glassfibre control stakes to replace our current plastic ones, which are felt to be heavy and cumbersome to manage, something I can vouch for! The replacement stakes from Sportident cost £14.40 each, and we would need about 80; we could continue to use our existing start/finish/clear etc. stakes. This seems a high price given that the basic stakes can be bought for about £1.80 each, meaning that the special cap provided by Sportident which enables attachment of the control mounting costs over £12. We are looking at trying to find an alternative way to mount the control unit on the stake. We have lost a few SI units during the year, either to vandalism or complete failure, but we still have sufficient spares to manage our current event programme should controls fail just before or during an event.

We are still on the lookout for and happy to accept old smartphones which can be used to lend to maprunners whose phone has died or who have forgotten to bring it to the event.

Development Report 2019

There have been 4 strands to our development programme during the year:

- Schools
- Maprun
- Trails
- Volunteer training

Schools

Although she no longer orienteers due to leg problems, Gill Stott has actively supported various school programs and continues to do so. The objective is not to get closely involved, but to train schoolteachers and staff in running orienteering activities. Gill works with the County school sports coordinators and provides event ideas, kit loans, and general advice and guidance on how to run fun orienteering sessions, mainly for primary school children.

Maprun

Our maprun programme is now well established, and we have over 30 courses available for people to run whenever they wish. We have a moderate sized but enthusiastic bunch of regulars, and we get 20-30 people to each event. We are also now starting to see Mapruns on existing courses from new people. During the summer we scheduled mapruns in mixed urban/village/forest terrain, and these were well received. They also demonstrated that maprun works pretty well in forest terrain, provided the course is checked carefully beforehand. The plan is to add all maprun courses to the BOF POC database, and to add maprun capability to the Christchurch POC, currently our only forest one. It is worth noting that maprun is being taken up enthusiastically by quite a few clubs around the country, so we could benefit from that in terms of added numbers to our events.

We need to bear in mind with mapruns that some runners who enjoy maprunning are unlikely to make the transition to 'traditional' orienteering; they are running club members who enjoy the relatively straightforward navigational challenge in maprun but would not move on to forest orienteering. This should not be seen as a problem or a waste of club volunteer resources; many forest orienteers don't do urban races, but we still put them on. Finally, it is worth noting that the maprun app is evolving all the time. The latest version now has facilities for real time tracking of runners, and for personal course setting and control site checking, and so it has potential benefits for normal event planners as well as maprunners.

Trails

We discussed the idea of adding a 'Long Yellow' type course to league events at the last AGM, and Beat the Trail was the result. After a great start at Woodchester, with 35 Trail runners, numbers have tailed off significantly, and for the remaining 3 that we ran in the Spring we only got 6-8 runners, though one or two enthusiastic regulars. We have not run Trails over the Summer, but there should be one at Headless Hill and Soudley, and there will be one at Parkend, covering our final 3 forest leagues for this year. We will probably persevere with them for next year, and then decide if the effort is worthwhile.

Volunteer Training

Pete Ward has run some very successful Event Safety Workshops, attendance at which is mandatory for event organisers and planners, and we have or will shortly increase our pool of first aiders, but we have not managed to schedule an organiser/planner workshop, although we really do need one to bring on new planners. One practical thing we have done this year though is to introduce two new organisers – Steve Lee and Hils Nicholls - to larger event organising, by a process of learning on the job. With a number of major events coming up in the next couple of years, we need more people to come forward and take on organiser roles for these, knowing that they will be fully mentored and helped along the way.

Looking Ahead

We don't currently have any new ideas for things we could be doing to develop participation, membership, and volunteer capability. It would be good to hear any thoughts people have for what else we should be doing alongside our normal programme of events.

Greg Best

Fixture Secretary's Report

Having looked after event permissions and recruitment of event officials for the last couple of years, my responsibilities have now been extended to cover the few remaining bits of the fixture's role. With the number of events we put on remaining at a very high level, it's fair to say this job keeps me pretty busy! By the end of 2019, we will have put on 40 events in the year.

These include:

- 12 NGOC league events (including 2 urban races, 2 middle distance races and 1 urban/forest mix)
- 3 Western Night League events
- The Chairman's Challenge Maize Maze
- New Year's Day score event
- A SW League event (formerly known as the Galoppen)
- A middle distance regional event as part of the Southern Champs weekend.
- 4 summer evening traditional urban races
- 17 evening Mapruns (9 summer ones and 8 after-dark winter ones)

Putting on such a large number of events requires an even larger pool of volunteers to plan, organise and control. I am grateful to all those who volunteered their services this year, as this is key to the club being able to continue to put on such an active calendar of events. New faces are always welcome to have a first go at organising or planning for us. This may at first seem a daunting prospect for the inexperienced, but help will be offered to any first time planners/organisers, so let me know if you'd fancy giving it a go....

The Forestry Commission continue to impose more restrictions on us than we were previously used to. Namely, they are still reluctant to let us park on forest tracks, night events have not been allowed in the Forest of Dean again this year, and nesting goshawks caused the unfortunate late cancellation of a couple of springtime events.

However, it's not all doom and gloom. The FC have now softened their stance and will consider track parking on a case by case basis, particularly where no other arrangements are available. Fortunately, we will be allowed to park on tracks for 2 of our league events towards the latter end of this year, at venues where other options could not be found. What's more, the parking restrictions have forced us to think outside of the box and we now have (and are continuing to find) a number of good alternatives for parking. Happily, forest night events have been given a reprieve, so will be

able to start again from the beginning of 2020. We now know for certain that events in the Forest will not be allowed from the beginning of March until the end of June, in order to avoid goshawks etc. To compensate for taking away the spring months from us, we have started investigating which of our venues are suitable for running in the summertime and have already found some that are. In other words, every cloud has a silver lining...

In 2020, you can expect a similar number and range of events. In addition to the usual selection, we also have a few special events to look forward to.... These include a sprint race at Cheltenham's prestigious racecourse, the region's Compass Sport Cup qualifier, a relay that is part of the SWOA summer series and, last but not least, 3 events to celebrate NGOC's 50th anniversary.

Hilary Nicholls 'Hils'

Volunteer Committee Member 'without portfolio' / Vice Captain

Contact: Committee1@ngoc.org.uk

Junior Shadowing

Thank you to Peter for the past few years. His sister Rosie continues to make herself available and we welcome Rose who has stepped up to the plate. After a good 2018 offering/take-up at NGOC league events, this year occasions were few and far between be it no shadowers or organiser available, little or no interest from juniors/parents, course restrictions e.g. roads. I hope this picks-up going into the new o-season with four possible forest events over the remainder of 2019. I will also try a different tack with regard to approaching parents/families. What is encouraging is that younger juniors who have been shadowed are now more confident to tackle a Yellow or Orange course on their own e.g. Barthelemy, Max and Tom.

Compass Sport Cup 2019

In conjunction with the Club Captain I organised our team transport to Bentley Woods for the first round.

Club 50th Year Anniversary – 18/19 January 2020

I am Assistant Organiser to Pat Macleod for the National Level B event we are holding on

Sunday, 19th January with Clive Caffall as Planner. This is a weekend of orienteering with the Saturday being Steve Lee and Pat's Knockalls Middle distance cancelled from March 2019.

On the Sunday we are holding a Classic race on the re-mapped Lightning Tree Hill area of the forest nestled to the north east of Cinderford. We will be using the Leisure Centre next to the Forest High School as Assembly. I have been liaising with various businesses including the council, as well as visiting sites to assess for suitability. As this is a national event, we are expecting participants from all over the country. Therefore, we will need YOUR help in making this a success. Please come and enjoy the weekend as well as offering your help. We will be in touch over the coming weeks.

We would also like to put on some kind of evening activity for the Saturday evening and welcome your ideas e.g. Maprun, quiz.

Event Safety Workshop (ESW)

It is a BOF and insurance requirement that anyone planning or organising any orienteering event including Maprun should have attended an ESW. I have set up two more this year with 8 more NGOC members attending in Frenchay Village Hall – the most central point for participants and leader. I will be organising another in the first half of next year – if you've signed up to plan/organise for 2020 and haven't attended one, please drop me a line. Thanks to Pete Ward for leading these as well as those volunteer members attending.

Facebook promotion

Throughout the year I have 'shared' our event posts (>30) around various Facebook groups.

General

I have volunteered at many of the NGOC events this year in various roles, attended four Committee meetings since the last AGM as well as the 2020 NGOC event schedule meeting. I will be attending the Saturday First Aid course in a few weeks.

I am very keen to be involved in NGOC and volunteering. However, I am finding working fulltime and other personal commitments mean I have not been able to fulfil my appointed actions. Going forward, I am going to be more realistic in what I agree to. If there were more volunteers in any capacity this would spread the workload evenly for us all.

Outstanding: t-shirts, set-up another Planners/Organisers course (with Pat MacLeod & Paul Taunton), set-up another Controllers course (Greg).

Ashleigh Denman
Welfare Officer's Report

During the last year the Welfare Officer has ensured that the Committee has been kept up to date with safeguarding and relevant welfare information provided by British Orienteering. British Orienteering have been reviewing and updating their structures to ensure that they are as robust as possible. Input into our junior shadowing process has also been provided to ensure we are protecting both the junior being shadowed and those doing the shadowing by keeping appropriate records and requesting relevant permissions.

Alan Brown
Legend Editor's Report

Four editions of the newsletter were issued: January, April, July and October, totalling 131 pages.

As event details and reports are sent out each week by email do we still need Legend? Thanks to Paul and Greg for regularly writing articles but there have been no new writers and very little feedback from the membership.

Forest Challenge Board Game

After nearly ten years I have decided to stop advertising it. There have been very few sales this year and I feel that the game has run its course. I have a few in stock that I can sell if needed and can always make more. About 420 have been sold – all made at home – and they have, hopefully, brought some publicity for the club.

Kim Liggett
Secretary's Report

One of my tasks this year has been to set up a First Aid Training course which is being funded partly by British Orienteering as part of the club's volunteer development. Last month I attended an Event Safety Workshop organised by Hilary. I have volunteered at some NGOC events this year as well as booking the venue for committee meetings during the year.

Name: Simon Denman
Role: Membership Secretary

AGM 2019

Previous membership figures 10/10/18:

Category	Current	Other
Senior	146	4
Junior	31	1
Total	177	5

Current membership figures 10/10/19:

Category	Current	Other
Senior	131	3
Junior	34	0
Total	165	3

Membership numbers have dropped back a little after last year's gains. There has however been a welcome rise in the number of juniors bringing us to 34.

Since the last AGM, a club privacy/data protection policy has been agreed and this is available on the club website.

Paul Taunton

Mapping Officer's Report for 2019 AGM

I have held the post of Mapping Officer since October 2008. It has been business as usual this year:
"Printed lots of maps".

I have printed maps for over 30 events, mostly for NGOC, but as usual a few for other clubs, mainly the smaller events held by SWOC. The Xerox A3 printer I hold has now printed over 37,000 pages but is still working OK. The print run for League events is now generally over 200 maps! Toner for the printer is supplied direct by Xerox, next day service. We continue to receive supplies of Pretex waterproof paper from BML Print at a reasonable cost. I have a large stock of both A3 and A4 paper at present, as I was concerned there could be some interruption to supply resulting from Brexit, as BML source the paper from Germany.

I had intended to make another application to become a British Orienteering "Approved Club Printer" but have not yet had time to do so. According to the Rules, BO approval is not necessary for me to print Local and Regional events.

I have continued to convert our existing maps to the ISOM2017 mapping standard and all events this year have complied with the requirement to use the new standard.

Thanks are due to several other club members who have updated old maps, or produced completely new ones for us to use, including:

- Tom Cochrane & Tom Birthwright, new **Tewkesbury Urban** map, first used Aug 19.
- Joe Parkinson, new **Hereford Urban** map, first used Sept 19.
- Greg Best, extensions of his earlier maps to wider areas and **Painswick**, completely redrawn, first used Oct 19.
- Pat Macleod, lots of Maprun maps, map updates and **Lightning Tree Hill**, completely redrawn, to be used Jan 2020.
- Work is in progress on at least 3 other new maps for next season's events.

Apologies to anybody that I have missed in the list above – please make your efforts known to the meeting!

One area, **Soudley**, has been remapped commercially, redrawn by Nick Nourse, to be used Dec 19.

The refusal by the Forestry Commission to allow track parking has created more difficulty than before in arranging suitable parking for events. Arrangements are in progress to remap commercially two areas where parking is more easily arranged:

- A northern extension to our Highmeadow map, up to the Forestry Commission parking area at **Symond's Yat**.
- A remap of **Lydney Park**, which is private woodland. Although land access charges will be higher than those of the Forestry Commission, parking is available.