

Chairman's Report 2020-21

I'm pleased to report that, despite major disruption to our programme of events during Covid lockdowns, the club remains strong:

- **Events:** After restrictions on runner numbers during autumn 2020, followed by a complete suspension of events, we restarted strongly in April this year with a series of particularly well-attended League events. Now fixtures are largely back to normal, with a full programme of events planned for the remainder of 2021.
- **Members:** Membership renewals in 2021 were a little slow whilst there were no events, but member numbers are now close to previous levels. We have retained members better than all other south-west clubs, except BOK who recorded a small increase.
- **Finances:** The Treasurer's report shows that, despite several months with no events, our financial reserves remain strong and we have made a small profit during the financial year. Our regional association SWOA is also in a good financial position, as reduced income from event levies was more than offset by lower outgoings.

I'd like to thank the committee and our event organisers/planners for persisting with their efforts to gain permission for and hold events in these unusually restricting times. It would have been easy just to say "too difficult!" and cancel everything, but instead the club has worked both to provide alternative types of event, and to change our usual event procedures to meet Covid restrictions, so we have managed to organise more events than most clubs.

Two committee members who are stepping down deserve our particular thanks: Kim Liggett the Club Secretary and Ashleigh Denman, our Welfare Officer. Thanks to both!

Sadly, I would like to record that Chris James, one of the founders of orienteering in this country, and a former chairman of this club died earlier this year. A contingent of club members payed their respects at his funeral and passed their condolences to his widow, Gill. An obituary appears in the August edition of Compasssport.

Looking forward over the next year:

- **The British Night Championships:** This Major event is being organised by NGOC on Cleeve Hill on Saturday 27th November 2021. Please volunteer to help and make this prestigious event a success for NGOC.
- **NGOC Event Programme:** The calendar of events for 2022 is being finalised. The programme presently includes another Major event, the JK Middle race at Merthyr Mawr on 16th April. Land access permissions for this event are proving problematic, but it is hoped that it can go ahead on this interesting area. Currently an application is proceeding in parallel for an alternative area.
- **Land Access Fees:** The recent experience of club officials attempting to gain permission for orienteering on land in private ownership suggests that access fees charged by landowners are likely to increase significantly, which are likely to necessitate increases in entry fees for future events.

Thanks to all members for supporting the club,

Paul Taunton
Chairman
10 October 2021

Treasurer's Annual Report 1st September 2020 – 31st August 2021

I took over from Carol in March 2021. There had been very little activity during the first half of the year, but things took off again in April.

We have made a modest surplus this year, despite a couple of events making a loss. Income from the first few events after the end of lockdown was boosted by very good turnouts. However, when mapping costs (which are difficult to allocate to specific events as they are also investments in future events) and general expenses are considered, the margins are quite small.

With limitations on the use of Forestry England areas due to nesting birds, Covid and tree diseases we have made more use of private land which tends to be considerably more expensive, and it seems this trend is likely to continue.

The heavy reliance on pre-entry via Fabian4 carries a modest cost and has reduced event income and absorbed much of last year's entry fee increase. In addition since the start of 2021 we have had to pay levies on Maprun events to British Orienteering and SWOA which were previously exempt.

Very few event organisers and planners claimed expenses last year and I would urge them to do so.

Many of the large expenses of the last few years, such as equipment and club kit purchase, were not made in 20-21.

We have moved to online banking and making payments by bank transfer which I hope most members will find more convenient. Carol and I are still happy to receive or pay out cash at events.

In conclusion, finances are healthy and our reserves are more than adequate to cover any unexpected shortfall in the short term. However, it has been an unusual year and if current trends continue, I would expect us to be operating at a loss before long, so would support a modest increase in entry fees.

Alan Pucill
NGOC Treasurer
28/09/2021

Equipment & Development Report for 2021 AGM

Equipment

Given our overall lack of formal O activity during the past year it is no surprise that there is relatively little to report!

We have made no significant purchases of equipment, with the exception of a second Start Clock from KitST. This has been useful in helping to reduce staffing levels on event Starts, and was required for the British Nights, though we could probably have borrowed one from BOK. The cost of the clock is £300.

Other than that, equipment expenditure has been mainly on PPE material, most of it subsequently unused(!), and bits and pieces to maintain the overall state of the club's equipment.

We have three classes of what one might call significant equipment:

- SI Equipment and related electrical stuff

- Tentage

- Miscellaneous large items such as ground cover tracking, results displays, signage and so on

SI Equipment

Over the past year or two we have seen a slow but steady loss, through vandalism or equipment failure beyond repair, in our supply of SI units and dibbers, but we still have sufficient of each to service all but the largest events. The controls, in particular, have lasted well, with relatively little need for battery replacement since John Fallows serviced many of them during 2019-20.

The hire rate for Touch Free (SIAC) dibbers has increased to the point where most of our supply of 10 units are now hired for each league event, so it may be appropriate soon to purchase more. At about £70 a time, though, they are a significant investment, and it might be appropriate therefore to consider increasing the hire fee for these, beyond what is already proposed for 2022.

The generator very seldom gets an outing, as our newer and smaller battery pack services routine events perfectly well, and is kept on permanent trickle charge so should maintain its capacity for some time.

Finally, the club laptops, of which only one is routinely used for events, are long in the tooth. Of the two not used, one is effectively useless now, and the other approaching the end of its useful life, though probably adequate as a backup for larger events.

Tentage

The club tents likewise remain serviceable but are approaching the end of their useful life; spares are no longer available, nor is the range now available to purchase new, so we can't replace them with new ones and retain the old for cannibalisation. We should look at replacing them in the next year or so.

Miscellaneous Large Equipment

The tracking bought for NGOC has one outing during the year, at Toadsmoor, and proved its worth. We have had a couple of enquiries to hire it, but none has actually been taken up. It remains an asset that we should be able to hire out to other clubs however.

We have a set of 9 large results display boards manufactured at British Orienteering cost for JK2010, and used a few times since for JKs and other major events. They are made of white plastic Correx board, each 8'x2', and whilst we may use some for JK22, we should only need 3 of the 9 boards, so if anyone has any use for large bits of Correx, get in touch!

Disposals

We have finally got rid of all the old control stakes – all to good homes rather than landfill – schools, and Biblins Youth Camp – but still have large quantities of old canes, stakes, and miscellaneous signs and other bits and pieces. Most of these have not been used for years, and are unlikely to be needed again, so I will be disposing of much of this equipment over the next year or so, whilst keeping enough to service our larger events.

Development

With the exception of Gill Stott's outstanding work with local and not so local schools there has been relatively little development activity over the past year, mainly for obvious reasons.

We have however provided a number of informal forest training courses, using MapRun, and those, together with our regular evening MapRun series, have been attended by quite a few new or non-orienteeers. What we lack at the moment is a means and pathway by which we can introduce them to other orienteering activities, and encourage them to join the club. As the 2022 event programme develops we should perhaps look at supplementing the routine programme with some form of activity aimed at drawing new runners into regular attendance and ultimately club membership. As with all these sorts of initiatives, however, this requires resources and effort, and the club members currently actively running our programmes don't really have the time to devote to yet more activities. We need to try and draw more people into volunteering, even if only on a very occasional basis, in order to find resources and ideas for new initiatives.

One thing I would like to highlight to members is the remarkable and ongoing development in the MapRun App by Peter Effeney in Australia. As what I think was the first club in UK to embrace MapRun, we have made major and very successful use of it, both to support informal events, and to help with surveying, and course planning and checking for standard SI events. From a system which took quite a lot of effort and know-how to set up, and entailed lugging a phone round a course, it is now very quick and easy to set up formal and informal courses and maps, and with the latest release (imminent as of 28 September, but not fully released yet) courses can be run without the phone whether you have a Garmin or any other GPS data collector/watch.

The committee has agreed to pay an informal levy to MapRun for every paid for run on one of our courses, and this is a most worthwhile cause which I believe we need to continue to support.

Pat MacLeod

NGOC

28 Sep 21

Mapping report for 2021 NGOC AGM

Costs to print maps have increased slightly this year. So that members understand these costs they are currently:

Single sided A4 map is now 23.5p per sheet.

Double sided A4 is 36p per sheet

Single sided A3 is 36p per sheet

Double sided A3 is 47p per sheet.

Since March 2021, when O started to open up, we have produced over 3225 maps of various sizes, when adding in the pre-printed description sheets, has used best part of £1000 worth of material and ink.

We have a stock of A4 and A3 Pretex (Waterproof) paper estimated at £300.

We have a contract with a company called Printerbase who supply ink/toner and we purchase our paper separately. We own 2 printers, an A4 only and an A3 capable one. These printers are starting to age, but are not yet in need of replacement although we have recently been offered a new contract which could reduce printing costs if new printers are purchased. This information will be presented to the committee at a future meeting.

New maps planned / in progress at this time include:

Greg Best – Huntley / May Hill expansion.

Greg Best – Standish remapping.

Outsourced – Lydney Park remapping.

Pat Macleod – Symonds Yat (area to be added to map).

Greg Best – Edge (to be used Jan 22).

Clive Caffall – Ledbury Urban.

Tom Cochrane – Nailsworth Urban.

New maps drawn and used this year include:

Tom Cochrane – Selsley Common relays.

Steve Lee – Stroud Urban.

Greg Best – Cheltenham Urban.

Greg Best – Huntley.

Greg Best – Birdlip.

Various – Multiple Maprun areas.

Greg Best – Cleeve Hill Re-map (to be used for the British Night Champs in November).

All Orienteers and the Club owe a huge amount of gratitude to the people who not only organise our events, but also who spend an enormous amount of time creating the maps that we run on.

Ian Phillips

Mapping Officer

Membership Secretary Report for 2021 NGOC AGM

Previous membership figures 5/10/20:

Category	Current	Other
Senior	127	3
Junior	33	0
Total	160	3

Current membership figures 6/10/21:

Category	Current	Other
Senior	129	2
Junior	26	0
Total	155	2

Membership numbers have reduced slightly from last year although we have been able to attract 8 new club members this year, all seniors.

Simon Denman
Membership Secretary

Fixture Secretary's Annual Report 2021

The restrictions placed upon us because of the pandemic meant we were unable to put on any events in the early part of the year. However, once the roadmap was published by the Government that showed when restrictions were likely to be lifted, we wasted no time in getting a tentative schedule of events in place. Our first events back were at the beginning of April and with people desperate to get their O kit back on, we had some huge, unprecedented attendances. Where a lot of other clubs struggled to get going again, perhaps because of the various obstacles put in place by the big landowners (e.g. Forestry England and National Trust), we concentrated on areas with smaller landowners where I knew permissions were more likely to be forthcoming. We have managed to put on a good range of events since then – far more than most other clubs in our area. I am quite proud of what we have managed to achieve this year in difficult circumstances.

By the end of the year, we will have put on a full League programme, which has included some brand-new venues: Birdlip, Cheltenham and Stroud town centres, Huntley and an extension to the Symonds Yat map. Happily, FE are now allowing us back into the Forest of Dean, with us all enjoying the first event back there at Blakeney Hill.

We also held a summer relay this year for the first time (as far as I know). This was at Selsley Common, another new area. It was a very enjoyable day for all that took part, so there will

certainly be another one next year. There has also been a very full schedule of midweek MapRun events, visiting both urban and rural areas in all corners of the county and a bit beyond.

The British Night Champs on Cleeve Hill were delayed because of the pandemic and will now take place in November.

Unfortunately, we had a couple of cancellations unrelated to Coronavirus. Firstly, the exciting prospect Cheltenham Racecourse sprint event fell victim to unexpected building works and the idea has now been shelved as they can no longer find space in their calendar to accommodate us. Secondly, the league event at the newly re-mapped Lydney Park will be postponed until next year because of unexpectedly impenetrable bracken!

A full calendar of events has recently been scheduled for 2022. Again, in addition to some old favourites, there will be some new areas to look forward to (May Hill on May Day, Edge, Nailsworth and Ledbury urban events and the re-launch of Lydney Park).

Last and most important of all, huge thanks are due to all of the event organisers, planners and controllers who volunteer their time and energy to put on all of our events, without whom none of this could happen.

Greg Best

Fixture Secretary

Newsletter Editor's Annual Report 2021

Four copies issued during the year. Some excellent articles have been submitted but we could do with more – and from new authors. It doesn't matter if the article is in the form of notes as I can turn them into a proper piece. And plenty of photos are always welcome, whether to supplement the article or by themselves with a brief explanation of the setting. Even if you don't fancy writing an article yourself you might know of an interesting event someone has been to – let me know their name and I will twist their arm! The subject does not necessarily have to be about orienteering, as long as you think it might be interesting to orienteers, e.g. Paul's articles about one of our most important areas - the Forest of Dean.

Thank you to all who have written stories for Legend.

Alan Brown

Editor, NGOC Legend

School Coaching Report for AGM October 2021

Despite Covid restrictions there has been some school orienteering and progress made over the past 12 months.

Secondary Schools

- Newent Community School have been delivering orienteering lessons as part of their sport curriculum.
- Five Acres School have plans to deliver orienteering and create an orienteering team of year 7 and 8 juniors who will travel to orienteering events. Pat McLeod is updating the Nine Wells Map for use by the school.
- Gloucester Academy has recently been mapped (final version revised by Tom Cochrane) ready for orienteering activities to be held there with the possibility of combining the large grounds into part of a Gloucester urban map for public events.

Primary Schools

As part of the Gloucestershire Sports League there have been three orienteering days held:

- Cirencester and Stow on the Wold Rugby Grounds
- The Park Campus Cheltenham (with thanks to Shirley Robinson, Carol Stewart and Greg Best for helping on the day). They are already booked again for May 2022.
- Wotton Under Edge Community Parc (with thanks to Matthew Lawson for helping). Katherine Lady Berkley School awaits their school map being updated. There are plans to install a Permanent Orienteering Course in The Community Parc

Primary School Mapping continues with added support to help schools buy equipment and hold orienteering activities at the following schools:

- Powells C of E School Cirencester
- St James School Gloucester

Any NGOC member with an interest in their local school who would like to support them in developing orienteering there should get in touch with myself for help.

Gill Stott

Club Coach

Communications Report for AGM

With less activity to report, club news emails were more sporadic during the Covid lockdowns, but are now (mostly) weekly. Thanks to everyone who has sent items in!

Tom Cochrane
Communications Officer

Welfare Report for the AGM – 18th October 2021

There have been no welfare or safeguarding concerns raised over the course of the last year.

British Orienteering has developed the children's "O-Safe" Child Safeguarding Policy and the policy was approved by the Board in February 2021. The Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy is currently in the process of being developed and will be issued soon. British Orienteering have started to issue quarterly newsletters which are sent to Club Welfare Officers to ensure they stay up to date with the latest safeguarding policies and practices. A number of other resources and guidance are also now available on the British Orienteering website. North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club ensures that it follows all safeguarding and welfare guidance and policies.

Ashleigh Denman
Outgoing Welfare Officer.
