

## Chair's Report 2021-22

Although the changes after Brexit and the dangers of Covid are now largely behind us, once again it has been a turbulent year: the war in Ukraine had led to significant increases in fuel and energy costs, we have a new Prime Minister and a new King. Thus far these changes have had little direct effect on orienteering, and the club continues to flourish. However, the cost of fuel for orienteers to travel to events outside their immediate area is perhaps becoming a more important consideration than the size of the entry fee, and may start to affect attendances at Regional and Major events.

I'd like to present my overview of some of the important successes of the club's past year:

- **Events:** I'm pleased to say NGOC was able to organise a full programme of Local and Regional events for the 2021/2022 season, as well as two Major events. I would like to give my thanks to the many club members who helped with the planning, organisation and staging of all these events, large and small. I can't mention everybody in this report, but the contributions of members at two events were particularly noteworthy: at **the British Night Championships** on Cleeve Hill during November 2021 the team of people, led by Ian Phillips, who oversaw the start and finish in arctic weather conditions on the exposed hill top deserved medals; and at the **JK Middle race** at Clydach Terrace at Easter 2022 Richard Cronin worked extremely hard, despite health problems, to plan and manage on the day some excellent courses which were well received by all. On behalf of the Committee I'd like to thank Ian and Richard again, and of course all those other club members who have helped out in any capacity this season.
- **British Orienteering Awards:** Congratulations again to the two NGOC members who received awards this year: Greg Best won the Bonington Trophy for his contribution to mapping; and Pat Macleod won the Development & Innovation Award for working with Peter Effeneay the Australian developer of the Maprun app, to help many UK clubs to use it for virtual events during the pandemic.
- **CompassSport Cup:** Back in February forty-five club members took part in a three-way competition with OD and DVO at the CSC qualifying round, at Postensplain in the Wyre Forest and earned us first place. Well done everybody! Thanks to the twenty-two members who have agreed to travel all the way to Scotland next week to represent the club in the final, which will be at Devilla Forest, near Stirling. Good luck team! Luck is needed, as we will be competing against the might of teams from SYO, BOK and the like!
- **Junior Selection Successes:** Three club juniors, Reuben Lawson, Rose Taylor and Jessica Ward were selected for the Junior Regional Orienteering Squad's Czech camp this summer and Seth Lawson was selected for the JROS Lagganlia camp. Well done to all! These junior athletes deserved the support of the club, so a portion of their travel expenses for these camps was reimbursed to them. Recently, the club was also represented in the Southwest junior orienteering squad (SWJOS) at the Junior Inter-regional Championships (JIRCS) in Northern Ireland, with some successful runs (but no

silverware). Hopefully the Captain will correct me if I have missed any other junior successes.

- **Schools Development:** I'd like to thank our Club Coach Gill Stott for her extensive (but largely unpublicised) work to develop interest in orienteering amongst both school students and PE staff. She has masterminded and run several successful schools' events this year. I am sorry to have just heard from Gill that she is being forced to give up orienteering because of her knee problems. If any of our members would be interested in getting involved in these events, or indeed taking on one of the presently vacant committee posts, please get in touch.
- **Tour to Sweden:** I'm pleased to report that an adventurous group of runners, organised by Tom Mills, showed the NGOC colours at the O-Ringen week in Sweden in July. Our nickname "**Never Go Outside County**" is surely undeserved now! Their exploits were detailed in the recent Legend special issue.
- **Members:** I'm pleased to say that the break in activities during the pandemic seems not to have adversely affected club membership numbers, or indeed SWOA membership overall. Please refer to the Membership Secretary's report for more details. It seems that we are likely to remain a "Large" club for the purposes of the CompassSport Cup.
- **Finances:** The Treasurer's report, available in the AGM documents, shows that the reduction in membership fees implemented last year has not adversely affected our financial position, as event entry fees have covered costs. Our reserves remain strong and we have made a small profit during the financial year. We expect to receive some additional income from JK22 in our next financial year, but the amount of that payment is not yet known.

But as well as the successes, there are some concerns:

- **Land access permissions:** Obtaining permission for land access to hold orienteering events is becoming increasingly difficult. Although we have some mapped areas which are in private ownership, we are still dependent on Forestry England (FE) for permission to hold events in the Forest of Dean. Already, we have had to comply with seasonal restrictions on access to protect both ground nesting birds and goshawks. Now, we have been advised of large areas of forest that we will no longer be permitted to use, as they are infected with *Phytophthora ramorum* (an algal disease which affects predominantly larch, but also other tree species such as chestnut). A recently published forest plan details two proposed designations which will further reduce the areas we will be permitted to use: "**Forest Nature Reserves**" where no access off surfaced tracks will be tolerated; and "**Quiet Areas**" where public access will continue, but no organised events will be permitted. Access officers from NGOC and BOK recently held a meeting with FE to discuss these issues. It seems that a blanket ban on any access into the new larger Forest Nature Reserves is now certain, but access to Quiet Areas might sometimes be possible, as proposed events will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- **Land access costs:** Based on the National agreement between British Orienteering and FE, dated 2020 – 2023, the use of the Forest is still relatively affordable, in the range £150 to £250 for a normal League event. The long-term view is not so good, as access restrictions by FE may force us towards the increased use of private land, where fees are generally higher and frequently very much higher. Also, the increasingly commercial position taken by FE is likely to result in future National agreements being more expensive.
- **Loss of Access:** After a long period when access was denied, the Lydney Park Estate gave permission for an event in February this year. The map was updated at significant cost and an event was held but, following a change in management, permission for any future events has just been withdrawn! The club has incurred a loss of perhaps £700, as the mapping costs were expected to be recouped over several events, not just one. We are potentially exposed to similar difficulties with any private landowner.
- **Coaching:** Looking at our membership list we have seven people who have (*mostly in the distant past*) gained coaching qualifications, but at present we have not one Licensed Coach. We cannot therefore register a coaching session with British Orienteering and hold such a session under their insurance! Something which has been requested by members is coaching for aspiring elite runners but at present we certainly lack the expertise to provide this. This is something that I intend to raise with SWOA, as a joint initiative between southwestern clubs might be helpful?
- **Age profile of the club:** We are all getting older! Some of our most experienced organisers and planners, capable of handling National and Major events (*which are particularly important for the financial health of the club*) have retired, and others are becoming reluctant to commit to such events. We need younger organisers and planners prepared to take on Local events and then, as they become more experienced, move up to bigger events in the future. If people do not offer to organise and plan events they won't happen!

The five committee members who are stepping down deserve our thanks: Gill Stott (Club Coach), Shirley Robinson (Club Captain), Simon Denman (Membership Secretary), Kevin Brooker (Volunteer Coordinator) and Pat MacLeod, from his role as Development Officer, but retaining his post as Equipment Officer. Thanks to all! Several new committee members will be confirmed during the AGM, but it appears likely that there will remain a couple of vacancies. These will be discussed during the AGM.

Looking forward over the next year, and beyond:

- One National event is already in the calendar, **Caddihoe 2023**, at the last weekend in September. This will incorporate the Southern Championships, the Veteran Home Internationals and probably also the South-Western Middle Distance Championships.
- Our calendar of Local and Regional events is currently being discussed by the committee and is expected to be available on the website soon. If you would like to take on organising and planning an event next year then please get in touch with the Fixtures Secretary as soon as the fixtures list appears, whilst there is still a good choice of dates and venues! If you haven't organised/planned a Local event before the club

will ensure that you have an experienced mentor to guide you. And look out for the organiser/planner course which the club intends to hold early next year. If you are unsure, please ask Vanessa who was a successful first-time organiser/planner at Parkend this year, and is already asking which event she might be able to take on in 2023!

- In September 2024 NGOC will host the **Junior Inter Regional Championships**. It will be a good opportunity for our juniors to perform well running on home territory.

Thanks to all members for continuing to support the club,



5 October 2022

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## Captain's Report AGM 2022

This will be my last report as I'm standing down after the Compass Sport Cup Final. I haven't been orienteering much lately and I really feel that the Captain should be more visible than I have been. It's become more of an admin job so it is time for me to hand over the reins.

We had a good turnout for the Compass Sport Cup qualifying round at Postensplain earlier in the year and managed to qualify for the final by a narrow margin. Unfortunately, a couple of people, myself included, had to drop out due to Covid. I have a team of 22 people all set to go to Scotland for the final which isn't bad considering how far we have to travel. I have heard from the organiser that at least one of the qualifying teams have decided not to make the journey. I hope everybody has a good run on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

We didn't field a team at all for the British Championships. I was a little surprised at that as we had a few teams lined up and ready to go before the event on the same area was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid.

Nine teams took part in the JK relays, a nice local event for us this year. It was nice to see so many NGOC tops on display. Well done everyone who took part. Hopefully we will have a junior team next year.

It was a bit of a struggle to get a team together for the Cotswold Way Relay this year due to sickness and injuries. One runner had to drop out at the last minute, meaning we were a runner down but that is allowed as the team was awarded a time of cut off plus 15 minutes.

I've already had details of the 2023 Compass Sport Cup heats so please give the same support to my successor as you have given me.

Shirley Robinson

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## Treasurer's Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

### Summary

Our finances remain very healthy and we have made a small surplus this year. The increase in entry fees seems to have been justified as without it we would have made a loss. I am not anticipating any major changes to our expenses in the next financial year and if any unexpected costs arise, we have sufficient reserves to see us through. Therefore, my recommendation to members is that we continue with the same membership and entry fees and continue to subsidise team events and junior training at existing levels.

### Commentary

- Income from membership has reduced because we reduced the club membership fee from £4 to £1.
- We have increased our charges for the schools' events this year, organised by Gill Stott. The schools still regard this as excellent value for money and feedback has been very positive.
- We purchased 55 new club tops from Trimtex. Due to the weak pound and import duties, these will be sold at a higher price than the last batch, though the price is still subsidised by the club. The invoice was paid after the end of the financial year so is given as an estimated £1700 and listed under Creditors on the balance sheet (the actual cost was £1,727.12). The VAT and import duty were £573.35, paid within the 2021-22 financial year in order to have the delivery released by the courier.
- Donations include £700 raised from the Chris James memorial event which appears as income and expenditure as it simply passed through our accounts.
- Our equipment insurance renewal date moved from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> September so the figure for this year covers 15 months. The annual cost has not risen significantly.
- Printer fees have risen significantly because we have been far more active since the end of lockdown but also because of a glitch in the billing system at Printerbase which meant that weren't billed for several months and then had to make a large payment in arrears!
- HSBC imposed a charge of £5 per month for our charity current account. One hopes, now that interest rates are rising, they may remove this charge.
- Events continue to make a surplus sufficient to cover our running costs. One event made a loss due to high landowner fees but the committee feel that it is worth running such events in good areas if the losses can be covered by other events.
- We are still awaiting income from day 2 of the JK.
- Most transactions are now by bank transfer as there are bank charges for cheque and cash transactions. Carol and I are still happy to receive or pay out cash at events. After a few technical hitches our SumUp card reader is working well and we are able to take card payments at events where there is mobile signal.

Alan Pucill  
NGOC Treasurer  
28/09/2022

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## Equipment & Development Report for 2022 AGM

### Equipment

Most of the club kit has stood up well to our now full programme of events, so we have had to make no major purchases. Most of our equipment expenditure for the year, at £480 slightly higher than last year, went on sundries for the British Nights and JK2022, and on posts and related materials for the refurbishment of the Highmeadow Permanent Course. One particularly useful other acquisition is the purchase of 4 heavy duty canvas bags for storing and transporting the control stakes.

Our tentage continues to work, so no need to replace that yet.

We have lost one or two SI units, and a further one or two are beyond repair – for example a very quiet beep, which can't be fixed – and have purchased a third download unit, one of the newer style so-called mini-printers. Otherwise, battery life is holding up well in contactless mode, and we have sufficient units for all but the largest events.

Hire of SIAC dibbers has declined since the introduction of a junior hire fee, so no need to buy more yet.

The club laptops remain serviceable, but very slow, so probably should be replaced soon, or at least retired to backup service, and replaced by a single new one.

Likewise, the club printers remain serviceable, so no need yet to replace either. The main printer, held by Ian Phillips, now prints almost all maps to a better standard than the backup one does, so the latter is used primarily for working maps (surveying/course checking etc) and mono signage/reg slip printing etc. The backup printer has printed just over 8000 colour prints and 5000 mono ones, in 6 years of use – very low figures for a printer of this type, so no reason to suppose it needs replacement for a while; the quality of colour prints is not brilliant, but as it's not used for event map printing that is not really an issue, and if needed in an emergency, the quality is adequate.

We have made only one significant disposal – donation of the 2010 JK results boards (paid for by the JK) to Viney St Swithins football club for use as pitch side advertising displays. An ideal use for them.

The outlook for next year is much the same – keep going with what we have – replace as needed, no known major changes or purchases required.

As far as software is concerned, there has for some time been a new release of our main event software available, and we are currently reviewing that to see if we should upgrade, and what the costs will be for doing so.

### Development

I have asked to step down from the Development role, taken on in the absence of anyone else when I was Chairman back in 2011 sometime, as I don't feel I have been doing anything to promote club development, and I have plenty to do with equipment and logistic support for events, as well as organising our larger events, continuing to support MapRun in the UK, and when time permits, trying to keep some of forest maps up to date.

As a result, there has been little real development this year, for reasons above, but also as

much of our focus has been on both the two major events hosted since my last report, and on re-establishing a full programme of club events. I will continue to provide occasional support to people outside the club who are looking to start using MapRun, and liaising with Peter Effenev on any UK related matters that might arise, but this work has fallen off significantly now that almost all O clubs, as well as many running and fell racing clubs, are up to speed with MapRun.

Tom Cochrane and I have between us fully revamped the club website, and merged the separate MapRun Gloucestershire website into it. Our aim was to reduce the maintenance workload, while giving the site a fresh appearance, always worthwhile from time to time. It appears to be well regarded, but we welcome any comments or suggestions for improving it.

Apart from Gill Stott's sterling work with Gloucestershire schools, we have made no progress to speak of in those areas where, as a club I feel we are weak; publicity/marketing, and personal development, both orienteering and volunteering. We have no coach who can support club members looking to improve their skills and ranking, and no one really engaged in promoting the club through the media channels available to us. The Facebook Pages and Group attract a few 'likes', but are not active enough for people to pay much attention to them.

I don't really feel qualified to actually do the first, nor gregarious enough to care too much about the second, so it would be ideal if other club members could consider getting more involved in these aspects of our club activity. A reasonable level of orienteering experience is required for coaching and training, but exploiting media channels and publicising the club more widely really just requires an enthusiasm for these things (and for orienteering!), a willingness to spend time on them, and perhaps more importantly relative youthfulness and an understanding of the ever-changing world of social media.

So if you feel up to taking on any of these jobs, please feel free to talk to me, Paul, or indeed any committee member about what you are able and willing to do. In the meantime, I will keep on doing what I can to maintain the status quo, at least. We plan to schedule a planner/organiser course in the New Year, to encourage new planners to come forward and take on our events, and I will try and discuss with some of you what we might do to offer training, if not coaching, for those looking to improve their O skills.

Pat Macleod

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## **Mapping Report for 2022 NGOC AGM**

### **Maps printed October 2021 through to October 2022**

Colour Maps printed:

A4 – 4348 off

A3 – 904 off

Total - 5252

Sheets of descriptions printed– 969 off

Note: Maps for BNOG (British Nights at Cleeve Hill) and JK day 2 (Clydach Terrace) were 'professionally' printed as required by the British Orienteering Federation.

### Printer Consumable items used in the 12 months:

Imaging unit C replaced.

Imaging unit M replaced.

Waste cartridge unit replaced.

Toner Cartridges used:

Yellow – 7 off

Magenta – 4 off

Cyan – 4 off

Black – 2 off

Current Cost of maps – A4 26p each (Paper 12.5p, Ink 13.5p)

A3 – 38.5p each (Paper 25p, Ink 13.5p)

Sheets of descriptions – 1.5p each (reuse old maps)

Note – Double sided maps = 2 x print cost so A4 @ 39.5p, A3 @ 52p cost!

Ink charged by 'Printer base/Xerox' @ - Colour - 13.5p, Mono - 1.5p per sheet; Pretex paper - 12.5p per A4 sheet, 25p per A3 sheet).

Printerbase / Xerox contract price includes ink and consumables, but from 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Printerbase / Xerox will add £36 plus vat quarterly as an admin charge. This equates to adding an extra 3.3p per map!

### Mapping activities this club year by members:

Lydney Park Estate – the club had intended to remap the west part of this estate, but unfortunately their management team have withdrawn all Orienteering access in favour of new tenancy and stalking rights.

**Tom Mills** – Welshbury/Flaxley – to be used January 2023.

Greg Best (Winner of the Bonington Trophy for Services to Mapping) – Edge, May Hill – both used 2022. Leckhampton Hill – Major upgrade using Lidar, Standish area work in progress, currently reviewing areas surrounding Cleeve Hill that may be mapped.

**Pat Macleod** – Nine Wells updated and used 2022, Danby Lodge extensive update, Headless Hill/High Meadows/Symonds Yat updated, Flaxley updated to include Welshbury Hill.



**Tom Cochrane** – New maps of Dean Close School and Nailsworth Urban – both used this year.

**Clive Caffall** – Ledbury Urban – Used 2022.

**Contracted out** (Nick Nourse) - Lydney Park East re-mapped, Symonds Yat Extension – Used December 2021.

Various event organisers - Lots of new 'Maprun' maps and minor updates to a number of existing maps.

Remember please, that without all of this extensive background mapping work, we would not have the first-class maps that we have enabling us to hold our events through the year. We all owe our mappers a great deal of thanks.

Ian Phillips

29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

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## Membership Secretary Report for 2022 NGOC AGM

Previous membership figures 6/10/21:

Category	Current	Other
Senior	129	2
Junior	26	0
<b>Total</b>	155	2

Current membership figures 5/10/22

Category	Current	Other
Senior	131	3
Junior	26	0
<b>Total</b>	157	3

Simon Denman

Membership Secretary

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## Fixture Secretary's Annual Report 2022

After all the interruptions of Covid and the resultant difficulties in securing access permissions of the previous 2 years, it was a relief to be able to get back to normal again in 2022. By the end of the year, we will have put on a total of 31 events, with possibly a few extra Mapruns yet to be added. These 31 events were made up of:

- 12 NGOC league events
- 3 Western Night League events
- New Year's Day score event
- A SW League event (formerly known as the Galoppen)
- 12 Maprun evening score events
- 1 event for the army at Lydney Park
- 1 extra urban event at Nailsworth

The NGOC League is still our main focus. Over recent years, it has gone from strength to strength with events very well attended. It continues to evolve as well and now offers a good mix of event types. This year it featured the Chris James Memorial event (an urban race), one sprint race, two middle distance, seven traditional terrain events and one relay (by extracting the individual results).

This year has seen us again use some brand-new areas: Edge, May Hill, Ledbury, Dean Close School and Nailsworth. Lydney Park also made a welcome return to our League after many years. Sadly though, it seems that the estate have since reconsidered and do not intend to allow further events to take place there in the foreseeable future at least.

In addition to those new areas used for traditional dibber events, most Maprun events take place on new ground with organisers seeking out promising new areas around the county and even beyond. It is well worthwhile seeking out some of these if you haven't tried one yet.

Access permissions from Forestry England have largely gone smoothly this year. Track parking continues to be allowed each time we have requested this and as long as we follow their traffic light permissions system, whereby we avoid March, April, May and June, all has been well. On the other hand, the National Trust have denied us access to both Standish Wood and Rodborough Common this year - two areas where they have always readily allowed access before. This is worrying and I hope this does not turn out to be the thin end of the wedge, as in the past they were much easier to deal with than FE.

The fixtures committee have recently met to thrash out the bones of a fixture list for 2023 and there will be a similar number and range of events next year. The major highlight of the year will be the Caddihoe Weekend that we are hosting at Mallards Pike at the end of September. This will also incorporate the Veteran Home Internationals. In addition to various old favourites, there will again be some new areas too. If all goes well with permissions, these

will be Cirencester town, the eastern part of Newent Woods, Welshbury Wood and Postlip Warren that is adjacent to Cleeve Hill.

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 events, without which none of this could happen. I am now on the look-out for event officials for next year's events. Please do consider giving it a go, as we can only continue to put on such a full and wide-ranging calendar if volunteers come forward. We intend to hold a planning course soon, so that potential new recruits can learn what is involved.

Greg Best, Fixture Secretary

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## **Newsletter Editor's Annual Report 2022**

AGM Legend report: Legend continues to be published four times a year with between 32 and 44 pages each issue. An extra O-Ringen special has just been published. Most members receive their copies by email; just seven copies are posted out.

Alan

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## **Welfare Officer's report for NGOC AGM - 10/10/22**

There have been no safeguarding or welfare concerns raised since the last AGM on 18/10/21.

I took part in BOF safeguarding session on Teams on 01/02/22 - run as part of the Development Conference programme. The session was well attended and we had some productive discussions in small groups, looking at a couple of scenarios, as well as an overview from Peter Brooke, BOF Safeguarding Lead, covering training available for coaches, club Welfare Officers and more widely.

A reminder to club members who are coaches: for those individuals coaching adults the e-learning course is sufficient, but anyone coaching juniors needs to do the tutor-led course run by UK Coaching.

BOF will be compiling templates of best practice to assist clubs in ensuring they have good safeguarding mechanisms in place – clubs are encouraged to put forward ideas of what we'd like to see included e.g., resources/templates/links to external websites etc.

In the meantime, the safeguarding policies and links to training resources can be found here:

[www.britishorienteering.org.uk/safeguardingandsafety](http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/safeguardingandsafety)

Judith Taylor

Club Welfare Officer 04/10/22