

North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club

AGM 9th October 2023

REPORTS

Chair's Report NGOC AGM 2023

I'm pleased to have the opportunity of meeting members face-to-face at this year's AGM. I was elected at the 2020 AGM which was held using Zoom and the meetings in 2021 and 2022 were also on-line, so this will be the first "proper" AGM that I have chaired. I hope that many of you will arrive early for the meeting and be able to enjoy chatting to other members over the buffet!

The committee members have prepared a comprehensive set of reports, so I won't repeat what they have said. It suffices to say that during the last year the membership, number of events held, successes in club and junior competitions and bank balance have all remained excellent. Although strictly speaking the recent Caddihoe Chase does not fall within the financial year that this AGM covers, I think that this event demonstrated to the orienteering community what a strong club we are. It was a complex event but the efficient organisation and planning, helped by an army of volunteers, mostly from NGOC but also a few from other clubs, delivered a top-class event. I think that our year's events, rounded off by the Caddihoe, shows that the club is in pretty good health.

But as well as the successes, there are still continuing challenges which have no easy solutions:

- **Coaching & Schools Development:** This is a key area in which we have made little progress this year. At present we have no Licensed Coaches.
- **Age profile of the club:** 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. I'm pleased to see in Greg's report that there were five new event officials in the last year. We need to keep up this mentoring of new officials again in 2024.
- **Land access costs:** The National agreement between British Orienteering and Forestry England (FE) expires at the end of 2023. The increasingly commercial position taken by FE is likely to result in future National agreements being more expensive. It may be necessary to reconsider our 2024 event entry fees once the terms of the new agreement are known.
- **Land access restrictions:** As well as seasonal restrictions on access to the forest for nature conservation reasons FE has designated large areas for wetland creation and these are to be permanently out-of-bounds for orienteering. The courses for the Caddihoe Chase were restricted by these areas but were successfully planned.

Suzanne Harding our Club Captain is stepping down from the committee. She deserves our thanks for helping to lead our teams to a successful year, as noted in her report.

Thanks to all members for continuing to support the club,

Paul Taunton

6 October 2023

Captain's Report NGOC AGM 2023

My year as club captain has come to an end and I'd like to thank everyone who answered my call for runners for the various team events throughout the year.

It was a very successful year qualifying for the finals of both the Yvette Baker competition and the CompassSport Cup. The first year we've made both and the first time we've beaten the mighty BOK in a CSC qualifying round.

Unfortunately, we didn't have a full team for the Yvette Baker final so couldn't challenge for the top spot but hopefully we will have a massive turnout for the CSC final on home ground next month.

With the British Relays not being too far away this year, we were able to have NGOC members in 5 teams, Reuben Lawson taking 2nd with his team. The JK though being up in the Lake District rather than closer to home like last year meant I was only able to enter 3 teams. Robert Finch along with Seth and Reuben Lawson doing very well to finish 8th out of almost 50 teams in the Men's Short class. Thank you to Judith Taylor for standing in for me as captain at both these events.

Nearer to home in the SW Summer Relays Sam and Tom Dilley were 2/3 of the winning team in the Adam's Avery Junior Relay.

There was no Harvester relay this year and sadly not enough interest to enter teams in either the British Sprint Relays or the Cotswold Way Relay.

As well as the successes in the various team events there have been several individual successes. Most recently following a very well organised and successful Caddihoe Chase weekend put on by the club there are now 7 South West Long Distance champions in the club to add to the 4 Sprint champions from the Sprint competition earlier in the year. The SW middle distance championships are taking place as part of the Purbeck Weekend later in October.

There are still 3 events to go in our NGOC League but currently there is at least one NGOC member in the top 3 of every course and in all 3 top positions on the Yellow course which is wonderful to see. We have several keen Juniors coming up so things are hopeful for future Yvette Baker competitions and hopefully we shall be able to enter some junior teams in the various relays in the future as well.

Good luck to everyone in the CSC final and thank you again for supporting me during my year as team captain.

Suzanne Harding

Membership Secretary Report NGOC AGM 2023

1. Number of members

As at 5.10.22

Category	Current	Other
Senior	131	3
Junior	26	0
Total	157	3

As at 4.10.23

Category	Current	Other
Senior	141	3
Junior	22	
Total	163	3

2. Membership renewals

Membership renewals will be available on the BOF website from November 2023.

There are a number of changes which have just been approved at the BOF AGM, as yet unpublished.

In summary:

Membership for Seniors	Remains the same	£15.00
Membership for Juniors (under 21)	Remains the same	£5.00
New Category for Young Adults		£10.00
New Category for Families (2 adults and unlimited children at same address)		£35.00
Part-year membership for NEW members	Pro rata basis, depending on time of year joined	

Ginny Hudson

Membership Secretary

Mapping Report NGOC AGM 2023

Maps printed October 2022 through to October 2023

Colour Maps printed:

A4 – 4,249

A4 Double Sided – 190

A3 – 332

A3 Double Sided – 18

Total – 4,789

Sheets of descriptions printed – 1,006

Note: Maps for Caddihoe Chase (2 days) were ‘professionally’ printed as required by the British Orienteering Federation.

Printer Consumable items used in the 12 months:

1 off Magenta Imaging unit replaced.

2 off Black Imaging units replaced.

1 off Waste cartridge unit replaced.

220v Fuser unit replaced.

3 off Rollers replaced. Engineer fitted.

IBT Unit repaired by Xerox Engineer 30/06/23 then new unit fitted 14/07/23.

Toner Cartridges used:

Yellow – 5

Magenta – 4

Cyan – 4

Black – 1

3 off call out visits by a Xerox Engineer.

The above consumables and ‘call outs’ are all covered by our agreed price per page for printing. This does appear to represent very good value for money. Printer is starting to age!

Current Cost of maps –

	2023 cost:	2022 cost was:
A4	<u>32.1p each</u> (Paper 18p, Ink 14.1p)	<u>26p each</u> (Paper 12.5p, Ink 13.5p)
A3	<u>41.1p each</u> (Paper 27p, Ink 14.1p)	<u>38.5p each</u> (Paper 25p, Ink 13.5p)
Control Descriptions (CDs) A4	1.53p each (reuse old maps)	1.5p each (reuse old maps)

Note – Double sided maps = 2 x print cost so A4 @ 46.2p (39.5p in 2022), A3 @ 55.2p (52p in 2022).

Ink charged by 'Printer base/Xerox' @ - Colour – 14.1p, Mono - 1.53p per sheet; Pretex paper – 18p per A4 sheet, 27p per A3 sheet).

Usually CDs are printed on reused maps so no cost for paper.

Printerbase / Xerox contract price includes ink and consumables, but from 1st January 2024, our 7100 printer will no longer be supported. Xerox will offer us a new deal and we are waiting a price for that. Estimated up front cost to NGOC will be i.o.o £1,000.

Mapping activities (New and updates) this club year by members:

Welshbury / Flaxley.

Dowards.

Danby Lodge.

Mallards Pike.

Cleeve Hill.

Cirencester Urban Extension.

Newent Woods East.

Prinknash Abbey added to Painswick.

Pen Hill added to a Selsley update.

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

6th October 2023.

Fixture Secretary Report NGOC AGM 2023

By the end of the year, we will have put on a total of 27 events, with possibly a few extra Mapruns yet to be added. This is a bit less than some recent years, but perhaps a more manageable number. After all, it still averages out at one every couple of weeks. These 27 events were made up of:

- 10 NGOC league events
- 3 Western Night League events
- New Year's Day score event
- A SWOA League event and Yvette Baker Trophy heat (which doubled as an NGOC League event)
- 11 Maprun evening score events
- The highly successful 2-day bonanza that was the Caddihoe Chase / Veteran Home internationals weekend

As usual, the NGOC League remains our main focus. It offers a mix of different kinds of event and continues to be very well attended. This year, there was one urban and 9 classic distance terrain events. Unfortunately, the sprint event in Gloucester had to be cancelled due to permission problems over access to the docks.

This year has seen us again use some brand-new areas for us: Welshbury, Penn Wood (with its scout camp that proved to be a great assembly for us), the eastern part of Newent Woods, Cirencester town, Prinknash Abbey's grounds which provided the last few controls of the Painswick event.

Many of our Maprun events also 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 have largely gone smoothly for events this year – the Gloucester sprint being the notable exception. However, next year I was hoping to use some National Trust areas and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust areas, and both are being somewhat slow or resistant in granting access. This is worrying as they look after several good areas to which previously we were allowed access.

The fixtures committee have thrashed out the bones of a fixture list for 2024 and there will be a similar number and range of events next year. The big events of the year for us will be the first day of CROESO at Merthyr Mawr in South Wales and the Junior Inter-Regional Championships (JIRCS) at Mallards Pike at the end of September. In addition to various old favourites, there will be at least one new area at the Dowards, the other side of the River Wye, plus we will be holding an event at Flaxley for the first time in many years, after assurances from Tom Mills that it has become much nicer to run through!!

Last and most important of all, huge thanks once again 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 have already recruited quite a few event officials for next year's events, but there are still some spaces. 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. A mentor will be provided for all novices. Last year, we had 5 new event officials put their names forward, which was excellent news for the future of the club.

Greg Best, Fixture Secretary

Equipment Report NGOC AGM 2023

The bulk of our event kit keeps going pretty well, with running repairs as needed, and things 'kept in case they might be useful' being just that for most of our normal events.

The main items of expenditure this year have been tentage, and SI equipment.

Tentage

Although I reported last year that the tents would keep going, we found early in the year, at windier events, that the current generation of tents was starting to show its age, with holes in the roofs, and some poles becoming hard to keep correctly aligned. That puts pressure on others and makes erecting the tents quite hard work.

So I decided, in the Summer, and when Go outdoors had a half-price sale, to invest in a Berghaus air shelter (£329) as a replacement for the more damaged existing tent. We used that for the first time at the Summer relay, where it proved too small to accommodate both registration and download, so rather than buying a second one, we purchased a slightly larger Quest Screenhouse popup shelter (£445). This is very much easier to erect and will accommodate both registration and download.

As a result, we now have 6 usable club tents in all, in 4 generations, though some are really only useful for very big events such as the recent Caddihoe weekend:

- 1 x Generation 1 – our original open fronted red frame tent, very difficult to work out how to build the frame, but just about usable for simple functions, such as trophy store at the Caddihoe.
- 1 x Generation 2 – the early Khyam Sports shelter, used at the Caddihoe for the string course.
- 2 x Generation 3 - Khyam sports shelters, our main club tents for several years, used at the Caddihoe for registration, and day 2 Chasing Start
- 2 x Generation 4 – the Berghaus air shelter and Quest Screenhouse, the former used for First Aid at the Caddihoe, the latter for download.

SI Equipment

Some SI units have been showing their age, and we have had a fairly high failure rate in the early part of the year. In part to address this, but also with the Caddihoe weekend in mind, we purchased 20 new BSF9 SI controls at a cost of over £2000, as well as various other event kit related items such as new kites and a larger single storage case for all controls.

We are also progressively switching to using SportIdent to repair controls and replace batteries, at a cost of about £20 a time, so this could be a significant additional equipment cost through the year. One of our two Master stations appears to have a major failure (not just a dead battery) and may cost £130 to replace.

Computing

The club laptop continues to work, albeit slowly, so as long as some of us are prepared to use our own machines to provide extra capacity or backup for larger events, there is no need yet to replace the club laptop.

Printers

The main club printer is covered in the Mapping Officer's report. I have the backup A4 only colour laser printer – a Xerox 6600. It gets very little use, having only printed just under 14,000 pages since bought in Feb 2016. That is a very small volume for this sort of printer, and may explain the poor quality of some prints, in particular maps and red tones in other colour prints. Unlike the bigger Xerox 7100 it has almost no colour adjustment controls, and so there is little we can do to improve the quality of

colour prints. However, it is perfectly satisfactory for most of the printing I need to do – signage, reports, registration slips, those sorts of things – and can cope with emergency prints for low-key events such as MapRuns. There is no need to think about replacing now.

Pat Macleod

Welfare Officer Report NGOC AGM 2023

There have been no safeguarding incidents or concerns during the 12 months from the last AGM.

Club Welfare Officers receive quite regular updates from Peter Brooke, British Orienteering Lead Safeguarding Officer. The September update contained a link to a survey for Club Welfare Officers to complete – the questions were largely about how we feel about the support and guidance available from BO and how it can be improved. I submitted a response and will feed back any key points once the summary responses are available.

BO also conducted some research earlier this year which involved speaking directly to junior orienteers and a survey to gauge awareness of BO's Adults at Risk Policy, with feedback being used to inform a new website page "Understanding Safeguarding" accessible via the Club Zone pages.

I've also recently had information from BO about the Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport which is a national, year-round campaign run by the [NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit](#) (NSPCC CPSU) which aims to raise awareness of the important role parents play in keeping their child safe and happy in sport. As well as encouraging parents to get involved in and support their children's sporting activities, it also covers safeguarding, with information on how to spot poor practice as well as abuse.

Alongside the year-round campaign, there is a week during the first week of October to highlight the campaign and launch new resources and guidance for parents and carers. This focus week brings to life the campaign messages with stories from parents, young people, and coaches.

Judith Taylor

Club Welfare Officer 02/10/23

Volunteer Coordinator Report NGOC AGM 2023

The Club has held 10 League Events and the Caddihoe Chase since the last AGM, for which volunteer helpers have been sought (excluding any Western Night League Events).

At any normal League event around 20 volunteers are needed to ensure an event runs smoothly and efficiently, whilst providing an opportunity for volunteers to participate if they wish. Obviously the Caddihoe Chase was on a much larger scale, and I thank Pat Macleod for leading on the volunteer organisation for that event.

I'd like to thank all those NGOC members who have volunteered over the last year, particularly those that put the 'hands-up' for nearly every event. It makes my job so much easier.

Without volunteers our events would not take place, so it would be nice to see a broader spectrum of members helping over the next twelve months. There will always be help if you are a first timer and currently you benefit from reduced entry fees.

Happy Orienteering

Ian Prowse

Communications & Publicity Officer Report NGOC AGM 2023

Continued the emails to members, at reduced frequency (once every 2-4 weeks). Plus occasional updates to website.

Note: there are currently no emails being sent to the 'Friends of NGOC'.

Tom Cochrane

Newsletter Editor Report NGOC AGM 2023

Four issues of Legend during the year. October 2023 edition will come out after the AGM to reflect changes in the Committee and for Paul (Taunton) to write a valedictory Chair's Chat.

Alan Brown
