



Berkshire Orienteers

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

7.00 pm, 10 February 2011
Hurst Village Hall
School Road, Hurst RG10 0DR

Present:

Christine Artus, Janice, Booth, Tim Booth, Keith Ellis, Peter Entwistle, Terrence Hoskin, Nigel Houlton, Ian Hudson, David Jukes, Dave Lattimore, Robert Lattimore, Peter McManners, Rosa McManners, Thomas McManners, Tina McManners, Richard Rae, Ken Ricketts, Dave Rogers, Oone Rogers, Alan Springett, Catherine Springett, Katy Stubbs, Martin Wilson, Alan Yeadon and Liz Yeadon

Apologies:

Brian Burt, Darrell Cruickshank, Neil Frankum, Helen Fraser, Bryce Gibson, Janet Gibson, Andrew Graham, Denise Harper, Eric Harper, Simon Turton, Alain Wilkes, Sue Wilkes, Dan Straka, Fiona Clough, Reg Parker and Anne Parker

1. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting (February 2010)

The minutes of the 2010 AGM had been circulated. Dave Rogers proposed that they be accepted. This was seconded by Catherine Springett and agreed by the meeting.

2. Chairman's Report

Katy Stubbs presented the following account of the year's activities:

Events

BKO have had a busy year putting on more events than ever during the last 12 months. The three larger events weren't without their challenges.

At our May event, held on Hawley and Hornley, the organiser (Peter Entwistle) arrived on the morning to find that the toilets had been burnt down overnight. The rest of the event went well however with around 260 runners enjoying the courses planned by Dick Rae.

In October, the event in Swinley West was very popular, organised by Ken Ricketts and planned by Neil Frankum. Beautiful weather and lack of other events locally meant we had a record turnout of 420. Maps had to be recycled and competitors were very understanding, but we were complimented on a very 'competitor friendly' event (although the queue for the loo did get very long at times). However we did make a loss at this event, mainly due to the comparatively high numbers of runners that we had to pay the higher rate of levy on and Crown Estate charges. I will refer to this later on.

The year's Concorde Chase probably presented the greatest challenge. Issues around land permission meant that the original date of Sunday 30th January was refused. The committee considered many different options from moving the date, which would mean we would have to come forward to 2nd January; moving the location, which would mean replanning all the courses and some remapping or changing to the Saturday. In the end moving to the Saturday was the least worst option. This turned out to be not without its' own problems as we were still not able to use the entire area and then finally

we were refused permission to park out on the land. Many thanks from myself, as organiser, to Colin Dickson and BAOC for arranging the parking and providing the security at the gates, and to the planner, Martin Wilson, for being able to replan the courses, twice!

Feedback on the day was that the courses were well received, although we did have a control stolen before the race started, which caused some problems, as well as a lot of post-race calculations to prove that taking split times out does not always give the expected result. Numbers were certainly lower than previous years with only 487 runners on the day. However looking at other local events, our pre-entries (456) were very similar to Ashridge the previous weekend (467), and significantly higher than the Wimborne event last weekend (263). Provisional figures show that the profit from the event will not cover the full amount of the new map of the area (a cost we shared with BAOC).

On a much more positive note our smaller events are continuing to prove very popular.

We have had 8 of our informal Saturday events since the last AGM. Reg and Anne Parker gracefully (or perhaps gratefully) retired from organising these events in May at the end of the 2009/2010 season. They have been organising them with the assistance of the rest of the Saturday crew since they started in 2003. The club owes a big vote of thanks to both Anne and Reg and the committee has decided to award the Derek Harding award to them for their hard work over so many years. Unfortunately they are not able to be at the AGM so I will pass the trophy over to them at some convenient time.

Di and Glenn Wass have taken over the mantle for this year and we thank them for their commitment (which is not inconsiderable). Thanks also to the various planners (Andrew Graham, Ken Ricketts, Eric Harper, Andrew Southwood, Denise Harper and Katy Stubbs).

We also started a series of 4 Summer Saturday Park/Urban races, kicking off with a very popular event at the University of Reading (Whiteknights). The new map was produced by David Jukes, whose contacts at the university made the events possible (Eric had been trying to get access over the last couple of years but without success). This was followed by events on new maps of Wokingham, based on Cantley Park and West Norreys (produced by Ken Ricketts) and Woodley Airfield, based on Ashbury Park (produced by David Jukes). Ken and David also planned their respective events. The fourth event was a Dinton Pastures event by Liz and Alan Yeadon, re-scheduled from January 2010. We got between 137 and 37 runners at these 4 races, some of whom were aiming to complete the entire series. These events were also ably supported by Glenn and Di Wass who ran the computing side. Glenn and Di have decided that 8 events a year is more than enough and will not take on these events for the next season, starting in May, so we need people to look after the organising/download at these informal events. For 2011 we plan on a series of 5 Summer Park/Urban Races, using Whiteknights and Ashbury again, but adding 2 or 3 more new maps including Lower Earley and Bracknell.

The new map of Whiteknights was also used for an informal event before the British Orienteering Roadshow in October where a select group of 22 enjoyed a sprint around the campus as well as our New Year's Day Score event which attracted 130 competitors. Both events were planned by David Jukes, and organised by Denise and Eric Harper and Andrew Graham respectively.

We continued the summer Wednesday evening events, Eric Harper ran the computing side and planners included Eric and Denise Harper, Katy Stubbs, Andrew Southwood, Alan Phillips, Neil Frankum, Andrew Graham and Ken Ricketts. These proved to be increasingly successful as they were advertised as events, with an average of 42 attendees.

One recurring theme over this last year has been the ever increasing load taken on by a limited number of people. You will recognise the same names appearing again and again as organisers and planners. It is important for the health of the club that more club members take on these roles even if only on an occasional basis. We have lots of experience in the club and many people offered to help in

reply to the recent questionnaire but we need these people to come forward. Please think about what you may be able to do and help us all out.

Youth Competition

We have also started a Youth League this year based on the Saturday events. This is open to any junior who can compete as an individual and also count points for their school / other youth organisation (such as scouts). Ken Ricketts is administering this and we have had 5 events to date. Hopefully this will act as an incentive for juniors to attend events regularly.

Schools and Community Work

The Berkshire Primary Schools competition has continued both last year and is currently ongoing for 2011. This is mainly due to the contacts that Denise Harper, our Regional Development Officer has within Berkshire, but also due to the support of a number of BKO members who are willing to turn up and help at these midweek events. As I am sure you know, the posts of Regional Development Officer have been made redundant by British Orienteering, the good news for BKO is that Denise is able to dedicate her remaining time as RDO until the end of March to the Berkshire Schools competition, which is seen by British Orienteering as an excellent example of club/school/local authority co-ordination.

One very significant outcome of the work with schools was the participation of Ascot Heath School in the Primary Schools section at the British Schools Championships last November. They joined our regular representative, St Andrews School, who compete in the Middle/Preparatory section. Ascot Heath and St Andrews both won medals in the individual or age class team competitions, but the surprise was in the whole school competition, where St Andrews came third, but Ascot Heath won the Primary School Trophy. Congratulations to both of them.

Looking at the improvement of juniors throughout the year, runners from St Andrews stand out as the most improved and the committee have decided to award Jim's Jug for the most improved performance to James Palmer of St Andrews who has moved up from Yellow courses at the beginning of last year to completing Green at the recent Concorde Chase, a very impressive jump. Again, James wasn't at the AGM but we will make sure he receives his award, probably at a Saturday event.

As a consequence of contacts within Bracknell, with whom we worked closely over the last few years both in schools and local parks, Denise Harper and BKO were approached to map South Hill Park for a permanent course. This was done by Katy Stubbs and the first phase of the permanent course put in place during the summer holidays as a community project. This has given us links to both South Hill Park and with local community leaders and we plan on capitalising on this in the following year, more later.

Committee matters

A number of committee members have taken on specific roles over the last year. As already mentioned Ken Ricketts is administering the Youth league (and the SCOA League). Keith Ellis, has not only taken over as Newsletter Editor, but is also taken on the mantle of publicity and is being successful in getting some articles in local newspapers as well as getting information out to various sport websites. David Jukes, as Secretary, has started sending regular updates to members via the new membership database and these seem to be well received.

We have been considering setting up regular Club evenings for quite a few months, based around the Participation Club programme. Firstly we decided that we needed to find out what the membership actually wanted and the membership survey was created, put on the website by Tim Booth and analysed by Alan Springett. You have all seen the report in the Newsletter so I am not going to go

through the details here, but it gave support for regular club nights throughout the year, with a desire for both technical and (to a slightly lesser extent) physical training. One issue with regular evenings is the manpower available within the club and, as you have already been told, we have problems getting officials for our current programme. British Orienteering has some funds available so we are about to set up a weekly Club night, based in Bracknell with a coach for the first year paid for by BO. It will hopefully start towards the end of March, depending on getting final location and contracts signed. This will not only hopefully attract local newcomers (the participants side of the programme) but also give both a regular base for BKO and also the training that members have asked for. Further information will be in the next newsletter and email updates.

We have replaced the (deceased) pole for one of the club banners to a heavy duty one which will hopefully last longer, bought chains and padlocks to secure controls during park/urban races and bought a couple of Emit joker units. We have also recently bought a printer and power supply to allow us to print maps at events on waterproof paper. Thanks to Alan Springett for donating the kit to convert from DC to AC (you can tell I'm not an electrician).

Finally, I have already mentioned that recent large events have lost money, or not covered the costs of mapping, which is essential to the existence of orienteering. We also need to budget for replacing all our Emit equipment, which will soon reach the end of its guaranteed life. It was therefore with regret that the committee has decided to increase the cost of most events and also to introduce a surcharge to non members even at Saturday events. However we have had one benefit (apart from the anticipated increase in income), in that club membership is increasing and currently stands at 203 units. So we have an increased pool of interested local orienteers that we can now contact directly.

Looking forward, apart from the initiatives above (Club night, increased Summer Park series) we don't have any Major Events in the near future, however just to point out that SCOA host the JK in 2013 and work already moves ahead with that, so if anyone is interested in getting involved please let me (Katy Stubbs) know.

Thanks to the BKO committee for their support this last year and everyone who has been either an official, or helped at any of our numerous events this last year.

3. Treasurer's Report

Peter Entwistle circulated the audited accounts for 2010 along with a proposed budget for 2011.

Accounts 2010

The overall accounts showed a cash surplus of £1099, a big improvement over the £1116 cash deficit in 2009. Although there had been less income from the Concorde Chase and the Swinley West SCOA League event (both due to high Crown Estate charges), this had been partly offset by increased income from Saturday events, the new Parks Challenge summer series and an increased entry at the 2010 New Years Day event. There had however been a big fall in expenditure (down by about £2600) mainly due to a much smaller spend on equipment but also reduced map survey costs and no purchase of club clothing stock.

He then explained how the Committee had decided that it was necessary to start preparing for the replacement of the club electronic Emit equipment. It is estimated that the battery life of our stock would be about 7 years and since much of it had been purchased about 4 years ago, future replacement needed to be planned. Peter presented data which showed that the current replacement cost would amount to about £12900. Taking depreciation into account he proposed an annual charge against the accounts of £1840 to establish an equipment reserve. He also proposed transferring £4335 from our general reserve to the equipment reserve to cover previous depreciation. The situation

would be reviewed by the Committee each year to update the provision. This approach was agreed by the meeting.

With this new approach, there was a cash deficit on the year of £741.

Budget 2011

Peter presented a typical budget for a SCOA League event on Crown Estate land. This showed that we needed to charge at least £9 per BOF senior to cover typical costs for this type of event.

He then presented a draft budget for 2011 which was accepted.

Membership Fees – 2012

Peter proposed that the club's membership fees for 2012 should remain unchanged from the 2011 amounts. This was agreed.

4. Awards

Jims Jug: This award, traditionally given to the best junior was this year awarded to **James Palmer** for his significant improvement during the year.

Derek Harding Award: This award, named after a former club Treasurer and given for services to the club, was this year awarded to **Anne and Reg Parker** for their many years of organising the regular winter Saturday events.

5. Amendments to the Constitution

A proposal from the Committee to change the wording of the Constitution had been circulated with the invitation to the AGM. The proposal was that the first sentence of the second paragraph of Clause 3 should be changed from:

The Committee shall be elected at the AGM and shall consist of four honorary officers, viz. Chairman, Secretary, Fixtures Secretary and Treasurer together with four further members.

to:

The Committee shall be elected at the AGM and shall consist of six honorary officers, viz. Chairman, Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Treasurer, Development Officer and Membership Secretary together with four further members.

It was explained that for a number of years the club has had an effective active Committee of 10 people by having the four officers, four further members and by co-opting two additional members. By providing in the proposal the two new named officer posts, the Committee wants to ensure that the people taking on these functions are fully recognised as officers of the club. The roles have in fact been undertaken by members of the Committee (full members or co-opted members) for some time without formal recognition. The appointment of co-opted members will revert to its original role of allowing people to join the Committee when the Committee identifies a special short term requirement.

The proposed change was agreed unanimously.

6. Election of Executive Committee

Chairman: **Katy Stubbs** was proposed by Tim Booth and seconded by David Latimer. She was elected unopposed.

Secretary: **David Jukes** was willing to continue as Secretary. He was nominated by Peter Entwistle, seconded by Katy Stubbs and was elected unopposed.

Fixtures Secretary: **Andrew Graham**, was willing to continue in this post. He was proposed by Ken Ricketts and seconded by Keith Ellis. He was elected unopposed.

Treasurer: **Peter Entwistle** was willing to continue as Treasurer. He was nominated by Ken Ricketts and seconded by Dave Rogers. Peter was elected unopposed.

Development Officer: **Denise Harper** (currently holding the BOF post of SCOA Regional Development Officer) had offered to act as BKO Development Officer as the BOF post was finishing at the end of March. She was proposed by Katy Stubbs, seconded by Oone Rogers and elected unopposed.

Membership Secretary: **Alan Springett** had been fulfilling this role as a co-opted member and was willing to continue with this function as an officer. He was proposed by Nigel Hault and seconded by Peter Entwistle.

4 Members: **Neil Frankum, Ken Ricketts, Keith Ellis and Dave Rogers** were willing to remain on the Committee. All four were nominated by Ian Hudson and seconded by Katy Stubbs. There being no other nominations, all four were elected unopposed.

7. Any Other Business

Night Events: Ian Hudson (with support from Simon Turton) requested that the club consider the holding of a night event next winter. It was noted that there had been a time (about the 1980s) when the club had held an annual night event. Katy pointed out that it was becoming difficult to obtain officials for the events that the club is already committed to but agreed that the suggestion was interesting and should be considered by the Committee.

Club Jackets: Liz Yeadon suggested that the club might consider selling BKO jackets to club members and she was wearing a jacket with one possible design suggestion. The matter would be considered by the Committee.

The meeting closed with Tim Booth providing some personal memories of Dave Stubbs (who died Easter 2010) and his contribution to orienteering with BKO and nationally.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm