



Berkshire Orienteers Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

**7.00 pm, 12th February 2016
Downshire Golf Club, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 3DH.**

Present:

Derick Mercer, Andrew Graham, Ian Hudson, Fiona Clough, David Jukes, Brian Burt, Peter Entwistle, Richard Rae, Katy Stubbs, Simon Moore, Lynne Moore, Ken Ricketts, Brian Sewell, Sue Parker, Neil Frankum, Martin Wilson, Anne-Marie Hillier, Peter Wilson, Trevor Etherington, Nigel Hault, Mark Saunders, Terry Hosking.

Apologies for absence

Stefan Stasiuk, Glen & DI Wass, Toni & Eddie Whittle, Denise & Eric Harper, Gill & Colin Godbold.

In absence of a Chair Derick welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting (February 2015)

The minutes of the 2015 AGM had been circulated and were Proposed as correct by Brian Sewell and Seconded by Andrew Graham.

2. Chairman's Report

Having had no Chair for the past year David Jukes had volunteered to put together and present a report for the Clubs' activities and achievements.

Committee Report on the past year

We recognised 2015 as the silver jubilee for the club – 25 years of Berkshire Orienteers. As a contribution to this, at the start of the year we issued all members with a car sticker. Of course, whilst being a recognition of the club's jubilee it also provided another way for club members to identify each other and to interact at events. We hope that they have been put to good use! But what did the club manage during this 25th anniversary year?

Events

First our events which were co-ordinated by our Fixtures Secretary, Fiona Clough. Our 2014-15 Winter Series of Saturday and Youth League events continued with events in January to April. The 2014-15 Youth League team event was dominated by St Andrews which, led by Glyn Thomas, were regular attenders at our League events. As well as easily winning the Team competition, several of the St Andrews' students performed consistently well as individuals. Our thanks to Ken Ricketts for maintaining the Youth League records – something he has been doing as part of his club 'Development Officer' role.

As reported at the last AGM, our 2015 Concorde Chase had been staged at Cold Ash with Alain Wilkes as organiser and Dave Rogers as planner. You may recall that recent forestry work created some very muddy tracks close to the finish but otherwise the event went well.

Our second major event of the year was our first National Urban League event at Great Hollands in May with Planner Mark Foxwell and Organiser Fiona Clough. This was also a regional Southern England Orienteering Urban League – our second as our Windsor and Eton event in 2012 had been our first.

As we moved into the Summer, we once again staged a series of 4 'Summer Parks Events' which generally combined some urban parkland with complex housing estates. For 2015 we used Sandhurst Memorial Park, Ashenbury Park in Woodley and two Bracknell estates (Wildridings/Easthampsted and Birch Hill). At the final one we followed the event with a successful picnic with catering ably arranged by Fiona. Luckily we had a dry day enabling club members to socialise in South Hill Park whilst enjoying the food and drink.

After the summer we started on the 2015-16 Saturday series of Level D Saturday events. The first took place in late September (on Yately Common) but the second was not until late November (at Black Park). The most recent event, this January, was organised in collaboration with BADO and used Snelsmore Common to the north of Newbury. The 2015-16 Youth League is based on these events but also made use of our late Autumn Level C event. This saw us return to Bucklebury Common for the first time for many years – the event was organised by Peter Entwistle with courses planned by Andrew Graham.

Which brings us to the 2016 Concorde Chase held just two weeks ago at Barossa. Although army training areas can provide challenging orienteering, they have become increasingly challenging to stage as the process of obtaining permission has become more bureaucratic. However Fiona gained the necessary permissions and the event went ahead based at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Our thanks in particular to organiser Jane Courtier and planners Peter Wilson and Mike Pemberton.

We must also mention that once again we staged a series of summer training activities on Wednesday evenings co-ordinated by Katy Stubbs. Various members were involved in providing 7 evenings - some based around training techniques such as map memory or brown-only maps.

Finally we must not forget the continued key role played by Denise Harper in the staging of the preliminary rounds and the final of the orienteering component of the Berkshire School Games. This provides an excellent opportunity for a large number of children to experience the challenge of the sport and perhaps spark an interest which will at some point develop into full participation.

Although some specific individuals have been named, no event can be staged without the support and commitment of numerous other club members who regularly offer to act in various roles at all of our events. The Committee thanks them all!

Maps

With no maps, we would have no events. So we must also recognise Katy Stubbs' contribution as our major mapper once again. She provided major updates to our maps of Great Hollands and Bucklebury Common for our 2 Level C events as well as spending time ensuring that many of the maps for our Level D events were fit for purpose. Other club members, particularly the event planners, were also

active in ensuring that our maps are updated to reflect the continuously changing vegetation and human activity on our areas.

Equipment

Another necessary part of staging events is the provision of basic equipment (controls, stakes, tents) as well as the various components needed for the electronic timing – the various Emit components (the control units, the dibbers and the computing hardware and software) needed to extract the data and convert it into results and splits. Even once the data has been obtained, it has to be transferred onto websites and also uploaded to programmes such as Routegadget so that competitors can both see their results and analyse their performance. The basic equipment continues to be stored and maintained by Eric Harper but a lot of work has been done by Brian Sewell to review our results processing operation – during the year we have been investing in new computing equipment (both hardware and software) which is seeing a significant improvement in our ability to handle data at Level D events with the potential to also service our future Level C events. This will however need additional volunteers willing to learn how to use the new systems.

Our Emit equipment will be coming to end of its life soon – we are already finding increased failures in the club's stock of Emit dibbers. The clubs in the South Central region had all originally adopted the Emit system of electronic results and so these other clubs will also have to replace their equipment soon. Most other regions adopted the SI system and the committee is aware that both the club and the region should seriously consider the various advantages and disadvantages of the two systems before we spend large sums investing in Emit again.

Committee Work and Related Activities

All the above aspects need coordination, financing and planning. The club's Committee tries to perform this function to the best of its abilities taking into account all of our other varied work and hobbies. Despite the lack of a Chair, we have continued to meet and agree the things that need to be done. It has been more challenging and sometimes issues may not have been resolved appropriately or as efficiently but the club has survived. Derick Mercer has acted as our Secretary and has ensured we get relevant communications and that our decisions are accurately recorded. We believe our finances have been ably managed by our Treasurer, Peter Entwistle – you will be able to assess this for yourselves shortly! Ian Hudson has acted as Membership Secretary ensuring that our database is maintained and enquires get a speedy and friendly welcome. Andy Parry has been maintaining and enhancing our website and e-mail systems as well as circulating a regular listing of fixtures. David Jukes has managed our Facebook page, kept members informed by regular e-mail updates and has continued to edit the Newsletter – and for the third time being recognised by inclusion in CompassSport's list of the top 10 club newsletters for 2015.

Performance

Whilst staging events and activities is a key reason for the club's existence, we also provide a means for supporting members develop their skills and to celebrate the successes of those club members who are successful in the sport.

Starting with the juniors, of which there are fewer than we would like, the year started well with Adam Methven winning the M10 Southern Championships in February which he followed up with being fastest in M10A on Day 3 of the JK giving him a second place overall on Days 2 and 3 combined. He

also achieved a second place in M10A at the British Championships in the Forest of Dean and just missed a podium place by coming 4th in the British Middle Championships.

The Inness juniors have also been performing consistently well with good runs at the various SCOA League events. At the end of the 2014-15 competition, Robin (an M10) achieved an overall 2nd place on White with brother Thomas (an M12) winning the Yellow category.

Talking of Juniors, we have already mentioned the St Andrews performance in our Junior League. On the national stage they won the 'Middle Prep Girls' category and were second in the 'Middle Prep Boys' category in the British Schools Score Championships in October. In November they travelled to Norfolk for the main British Schools Championships and came second in the 'Middle – Preparatory' class with some fine individual performances.

Turning to our seniors, Ian Cooper was also a winner at the Southern Championships in February in the M70 class. Also winning his age class was Darrell Cruickshank as a first year M90. Later in February Ian also had an emphatic win at the Midlands Championship event on Cannock Chase. In the JK both Martin Wilson (in M65L) and Darrell Cruickshank (in M90) were fastest on one of the days. Martin was also on excellent form for the Scottish Championships in May. Despite having to get up at 4.30 on the day to fly to Edinburgh, he came through to win the M65 class and gain selection to represent Scotland in the Veteran Home Internationals.

In March, under the determined leadership of our club captain, Martin Wilson, the club competed in the CompassSport Cup Heat at Fonthill. As one of the smaller "large" clubs we struggle against teams with strength in depth but this year, with increased BKO participation, we were thrilled to beat another team, something we have failed to do for some time. Hopefully we can repeat this (or go even better) in a few weeks' time.

Turning to the urban scene, in the Southern England Orienteering Urban League (SEOUL) Martin Wilson achieved first place in the Men Ultra Vet class with Fiona Clough (in Women Vets) and Denise Harper (in Women Ultra Vets) both being placed third overall. On the international stage, Fiona's 3rd place in W50 at the Krakow City Race was certainly a highlight.

Congratulation to all those mentioned – we hope that we have identified all top performances. Apologies for any that have been missed.

Concluding highlights

We have left until last a few real highlights of the year:

- With the World Championships being staged in Scotland in early August alongside the Scottish 6 Day event, volunteers were needed from far and wide to undertake all the varied duties. BKO was represented in two key roles. Dave Rogers was the Health and Safety Manager for the World Championships with Martin Wilson taking on the planning of Day 2 of the Scottish 6 Days in Strathfarrar to the west of Inverness. Well done to them for their contribution to the success of the two events.

- We celebrated Darrel Cruickshank's 90th birthday in late October by presenting him with a large chocolate cake and some liquid refreshment at our Bucklebury event in November. It is a

tremendous achievement for a 90 year old to still be active both as a competitor and as a willing volunteer for the club. Long may this continue!

- In another version of orienteering – the Mountain Bike discipline – we have to congratulate Denise Harper on gaining the bronze medal for 3rd place in the W65 class at the World Masters MTBO in Portugal in June.
- Finally, early in 2015, the Committee submitted a nomination for Katy to receive the national Silva Award for contributions to the development of orienteering nationally. The award ceremony was held in conjunction with the BOF AGM in early April and we were all delighted when it was announced that Katy had indeed received the Award – a recognition which was well deserved. Whilst most of us are aware of her many years of work on behalf of the club and even the region, within the club her national work may be less well known. Our congratulations to her.

In conclusion, we can note that Darrell was one of the founding members of the original Reading Orienteering Club and he has seen it evolve since its formation in 1968. So although this report started by mentioning that in 2015 we were celebrating the 25 years of BKO, we will be celebrating once again in 2018 when we achieve our 50 years of orienteering in Berkshire.

3. Treasurers Report

Peter Entwistle circulated the audited accounts for 2015.

a. Audited Accounts 2015

2015 was another sound year for club finances: Overall we recorded a modest Cash SURPLUS of £133, which after capitalising the new equipment and allowing for depreciation, resulted in a small surplus overall of £407.

Cash at the Bank totalled £18037 at the end of 2015 up by £133 from 2014.

As last year we are capitalising the Equipment purchases since 2012 to spread the cost over the expected life, and so the purchase costs are transferred from Current year expenditure to Fixed Assets, but are replaced by an annual depreciation charge at 20%(for Emit) or 33% (computers) of the cost.

We are continuing the practice of setting aside a provision to allow for eventual replacement of our battery powered Emit equipment. Much of the equipment is now 8 years old and will have to be replaced in the next few years. The replacement cost is estimated to be in the order of £12000 and we have now built the provision up to this level.

Summary of 2015

The Club is in a good financial position with no major changes since last year.

The Final OVERALL position was a surplus of £407 for 2015 together with a bank balance of £18037. We have sufficient funds to replace our current emit equipment when this becomes essential in the next few years.

There were no questions at present. Account proposed by Andrew Graham & seconded by Sue Parker.

b. Budget 2016

Peter detailed the provisional budget for 2016 with a question over the mapping expense £1500 by Martin. This was answered by Fiona & Katy that various areas require mapping at that this figure is very reasonable.

For 2016 overall at this early date in the year we are forecasting a DEFICIT of £734

The 2016 budget was proposed by Katy Stubbs and seconded by Andy Parry.

c. Membership Fees 2017

There is no proposed change to the fees for 2017.

4. Awards

Derek Harding Award (For services to the club)

Fiona presented the Derek Harding award for his services to the club over the past year to **Terrence Hosking**.

Jim's Jug (For best junior)

Adam Methven had been nominated by the Executive Committee as having had outstanding performances as a junior this season.

Club Champions (Based on results at the Championship, 13th December 2015)

- M/W12: Lowri Thomas
- M/W14: Thomas Innes
- M/W16 No eligible entries
- Senior: Doug Greenwood
- Veteran: Anne- Marie Hillier
- Super Veteran: Denise Harper

Overall Club Champion by the closest of margins was **Anne-Marie Hillier**

5. Election of Executive Committee:

Chair: With no volunteers the position remains vacant.

Secretary: Derick Mercer was willing to stand again, proposed by Fiona Clough & seconded by Andrew Graham.

Treasurer: Peter Entwistle was willing to stand again, proposed by Fiona Clough & seconded by Derick Mercer.

Fixtures Secretary: Fiona Clough was willing to stand again, proposed by David Jukes & seconded by Andy Parry.

Membership Secretary: Ian Hudson was willing to stand again, proposed by Fiona Clough & seconded by Katy Stubbs.

Development Officer: Ken Ricketts was willing to stand again, proposed by Brian Sewell & seconded by Martin Wilson.

Committee Members: There are four additional posts and two co-opted provided under the constitution. The following were willing to continue to act in this capacity with one additional volunteer Brian Burt.

- David Jukes, with additional remit of Newsletter. Proposed by Sue Parker, seconded Andy Parry.
- Andy Parry, with additional role of the BKO website. Proposed by Ian Hudson, seconded Fiona Clough.
- Brian Sewell. Proposed by Andrew Graham, seconded Fiona Clough.
- Mark Foxwell. Proposed by Katy Stubbs, seconded Andy Parry.

Co-opt

- Andrew Graham. Proposed by Derick Mercer, seconded Fiona Clough.
- Brian Burt. Proposed by Fiona Clough, seconded Andy Parry.

6. Any Other Business

- a) Fiona informed the meeting that World Orienteering Day is on Wednesday 11th May 2016 and that all volunteers in helping hold an event would be most welcome.
- b) Derick informed the meeting that an updated BOF O-Safe Policy had been issued and that it would have an effect on the Club's Constitution. After a brief discussion the subject is being taken away for the Committee to digest the contents and come up with a proposal on the changes required.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm and Derick thanked everyone for attending.