



Berkshire Orienteers

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

7.00 pm, 24 February 2012
The Bull At Theale, 41 High Street,
Theale, Berkshire RG7 5AH.

Present:

Tim Booth, Fiona Clough, Jane Ellis, Keith Ellis, Peter Entwistle, Neil Frankum, Bryce Gibson, Janet Gibson, Andrew Graham, Alan Harper, Denise Harper, Eric Harper, Nigel Hoult, Ian Hudson, David Jukes, Dave Lattimore, Robert Lattimore, Shirley Lattimore, Stephen McNab, Derick Mercer, Reg Parker, Anne Parker, Sue Parker, Andy Parry, Richard Rae, Nick Rayne, Ken Ricketts, Dave Rogers, , Oone Rogers, Brian Sewell, Andrew Southwood, Katy Stubbs, Di Wass, Glenn Wass, Alain Wilkes and Martin Wilson

1. Apologies for absence

Alan and Liz Yeadon

2. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting (February 2011)

The minutes of the 2011 AGM had been circulated. Ken Ricketts proposed that they be accepted. This was seconded by Dave Rogers and agreed by the meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

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

Events

BKO have had a busy year putting on more activities and events than ever. To start with our events since the last AGM, we had a first time organiser for Rushall Woods in May, Helen Fraser, with Andrew Graham planning and Colin Duckworth of TVOC controlling the event. The weather was kind and although Rushall Woods are rather remote compared to some of our other areas we still got 237 competitors.

The October event at Hawley and Hornley was very popular, with 388 runners, one of the bigger events of recent years as those runners wanting to do the Blue course found out, total of 150 ran the course on the day. Fortunately the club did have the facility to print maps on demand so we managed with some effort to get them all out there. This was one of the more problematic events as we had major problems finding an organiser. In the end it became a collaborative effort with myself doing most of the pre-event organisation on the basis that I was originally going to be away at the weekend and Peter Entwistle looking after the helpers and us both being there on the day. Steve Bouch planned some testing

courses, ably controlled by Pete Jones of SN, who also couldn't be there during the actual event and thanks to Eric Harper for standing in whilst Pete was away.

This year's Concorde Chase had a smoother run-up than last year, although with two landowners and a busy road to cross there were challenges, ably met by the two Andrews, Graham as organiser and Southwood as planner, doing events at this level for the first time. The map of Yateley Heath and Minley was re-surveyed and updated by Katy Stubbs. Thanks should also to Roger Thetford, controller for much advice and assistance. Numbers were higher than last year with 646 runners on the day and although I have not yet seen the accounts, hopefully we managed to break even.

We also had two collaborative events with adjoining clubs. We worked with SN with their inaugural event at Wellington College in April, which was very popular, BKO mainly providing manpower as the major officials were from SN. We also joined with BADO for the New Years Day event on Greenham Common. Tony Ludford from BADO organised with much assistance from Glenn and Di Wass on results. Again finding officials was a problem and the result was an absent planner and partial remapper (Katy Stubbs) and some very kind control hangers and collectors on the day in Alain and Sue Wilkes. 112 runners braved hangovers and a windy common on the day.

Our smaller events are continuing to prove very popular. We have had eight of our informal Saturday events since the last AGM. They continue to be very popular and we had our highest ever number of runners at Star Posts last month, 156. Di and Glenn Wass have carrying on being organisers for all of these events this year and we thank them for their commitment. Thanks also to the various planners (Ken Ricketts, Martin Wilson (2), Eric Harper, Steve Fletcher (2) Dick Rae, Mike Pemberton and Jane Courtier). Two of these are new to planning, partly as a result of a planning course put on at our new Club Nights, which I will talk about more in a minute.

We extended our Summer Saturday Park/Urban series to five races in 2011, kicking off with a repeat event at the University of Reading (Whiteknights) planned by Dave Jukes. Numbers were down from the first event, perhaps the novelty value had worn off. This was followed by events on a new map of South Hill Park (Birch Hill, Bracknell), planned and mapped by Eric Harper and a repeat visit to Ashenbury Park planned by Ken Ricketts. The fourth event was on another new map of Great Hollands, in Bracknell, again planned and mapped by Eric Harper and the final event was on yet another new map of Lower Earley, planned by Tim Booth and mapped by Neil Frankum. A group of people organised these events, Ken Ricketts and Andrew Graham took on the first two, Glenn and Di Wass the third and Andrew Graham the last two, but we were struggling to find organisers for these events. We got between 33 and 77 runners at these 5 races, down some extent from the first year, but we did not promote them as heavily this year, partly because of uncertainty about having organisers. For 2012 there are two more maps in preparation of Easthampstead and Wildridings in Bracknell and Sandhurst Memorial Park, both being done by Eric Harper.

The summer Wednesday evening events had more of a training theme this year which we intend to continue in 2012, Eric Harper ran the computing side and planners included myself (Katy Stubbs, 2), Alan Philips, Andrew Southwood (2), Simon Turton, Neil Frankum, and John Owens. These continued to be successful with numbers ranging from 21 to 64. I

have already mentioned that whilst we have new planners coming forward we seem to have even fewer people willing to take on the role of organiser. It is quite simple, if we don't have an organiser we don't have an event! So please search your consciences and offer occasionally. I am sure Helen Fraser would be happy to let you know how she felt about offering to do her first event.

Mapping

I have already mentioned the new maps that have been done by Eric Harper and Tim Booth during the year, two in Bracknell and one in Lower Earley and those in preparation by Eric for this summer in Bracknell and Sandhurst as well as the update of Yateley and Minley. In addition, I (Katy Stubbs) have revised Swinley East following recent felling, ready for our event in May and done minor updates to Bloom Wood, Lily Hill and Black Park for various Saturday events. Another new map in preparation by Tim is Windsor and Eton, ready for our first large urban event in September.

Schools and Community Work

The Berkshire Primary Schools competition continued last year, again due to the contacts that Denise Harper has within Berkshire, and we also hosted a senior schools competition, both finals were on new areas Wellington College and Dorney Lake. This wouldn't run without the continued support of a number of BKO members who are willing to turn up and help at these midweek events.

The abolition of the posts Schools Sports Co-ordinators looks likely to reduce the opportunity to run these competitions across the whole of Berkshire, but the local contacts that Denise has made means that we have already been asked to run competitions in at least a couple of LEAs, so the enthusiasm continues and we have seen children coming from the schools events into our Saturday events and participating in the Youth League.

The distance to the British Schools Championship, which was held in Scotland did not deter St Andrews School, who came 3rd overall in the Middle/Preparatory section, with the girls doing particularly well this year, winning the year 5 class and being 3rd in the year 6 class. As for last year runners from St Andrews stand out as the most improved juniors of the year and the committee have decided to award Jim's Jug for the most improved performance to Charlie Betts of St Andrews. Charlie isn't able to come to the AGM but we will make sure he receives his award, probably at a school assembly.

Club Nights

I reported last year that, with the support of British Orienteering with funding for a coach, we were about to set up a weekly Club Night, based in Bracknell. The intention was to start at the end of March, however the person that had been interested in coaching dropped out as he decided to continue working full time. However by the time the club knew this we had already made a commitment to dates and had managed to locate a room in South Hill Park (via Denise's local contacts) for free. So we did a preliminary 6 weeks aimed purely at club members to gauge their level of interest. There was a range of different evenings, Dave Rogers did two technical training sessions, I did two on planning events and Richard Barrett did two outdoor sessions, at one of which I managed to get in my assessment to become a licenced coach.

We had a reasonable level of interest so the committee decided it would be worthwhile continuing with the initiative if we could get a coach in place. During July Jason Edwards agreed to be the coach and we have been using rooms at Easthampstead Baptist Church since September. The only problem is the cost of these rooms, which is not covered by the numbers attending the evenings, but fortunately we have a grant from British Orienteering which makes up the difference, at least for the first 40 weeks. I am currently putting together a schedule running into our Wednesday evening training and as soon as the evenings are light enough to do work outside we will be trying to recruit newcomers as well as existing members.

Committee matters

As members know, one of the committee, Alan Springett, was hospitalised after heart problems at the White Rose weekend at the end of August. He is still unwell and in hospital, but we hope that he will recover and return to his duties as membership Secretary. David Jukes has been temporarily covering his duties and I already have a volunteer (Ian Hudson) to continue to do so for the near future. A number of committee members have said they will be retiring this year. Andrew Graham resigned as Fixtures Secretary in the middle of last year due to work pressures (although he then immediately took on the job of organising this year's Concorde Chase) and I would like to thank Andrew for his work firstly as Newsletter Editor and then as Fixtures Secretary. Eric Harper agreed to take on the land permissions part of his role (as a non committee post) and I have been filling in for Andrew for the rest of his duties. Keith Ellis has also indicated that he wishes to resign from the committee due to work pressures and again I would like to thank him for his work on the committee over the last two years. Keith currently looks after publicity and is our Newsletter Editor. Keith has kindly agreed to continue as Newsletter Editor (again as a non committee post). Neil Frankum has also said that he wishes to step down from the committee, he has been on it for 14 years.

Finally, Denise Harper has said that she does not wish to continue as Development Officer. Denise has been on the committee for a number of years as a committee member. She has done an enormous amount of work behind the scenes over the years, not only with schools but helping Eric out with the equipment and continues to be one of the main faces at enquiries that greets newcomers to events. As an example Denise recently put together the package of documents which enabled the club to renew their Clubmark designation.

For all of her work, much of which is behind the scenes the committee have decided to present the Derek Harding award to Denise Harper. I would also like to thank all of the BKO committee for their support and everyone who has been either an official, or helped at any of our numerous events this last year.

4. Treasurers Report

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

Audited accounts 2011

The club made a cash surplus on the year of £1462 but, taking into account a provision for future Emit replacement, there was a deficit of £385. The accounts provided some additional detail indicating that income was up by £1725 from last year but expenditure also rose but only by £1362. Overall though the bank assets are strong at £13613 of which £8022 has been set aside for eventual replacement of our Emit stock.

Budget 2012

Turning to the proposed budget for 2012, he pointed out that this showed a potential cash deficit of £840 (due in large part to a proposed purchase of some additional Emit urban controls). With the club having a healthy back and current assets balance it is anticipated that the club would still end the year with a balance of about £12770. He felt that the investment in additional equipment would be beneficial to the club and, despite the potential deficit on the year, could be justified. This was accepted by the meeting.

Membership Fees 2013

Peter proposed that the club's membership fees for 2013 should remain unchanged from the 2012 amounts. This was agreed.

5. Awards

Derek Harding Award (For services to the club)

Denise Harper was presented with the Derek Harding award for her services to the club.

Jim's Jug (For best junior)

Charlie Betts had been nominated by the Executive Committee as having had the best season as a junior. He was not present and the Chairman would find a suitable occasion to present it to him.

Club Champions (Based on results at the Championship, 20th November 2011)

- M/W12 Champion: Alexandria Marwick
- M/W14 Champion: William Jefferies
- M/W16 Champion: Robert Lattimore
- Senior (18-49) Champion: Richard Powell
- Veteran (50-65) Champion: Alain Wilkes
- Super Veteran (65+) Champion: Ian Cooper
- Overall Champion: Alain Wilkes

6. Election of Executive Committee:

Chairman: Katy Stubbs was willing to stand again and was proposed by Andy Parry and seconded by Ian Hudson. She was returned unopposed

Secretary: David Jukes was willing to continue and was proposed by Key Ricketts and seconded by Andy Parry. He was returned unopposed.

Treasurer: Peter Entwistle was also willing to stand again and was proposed by Bryce Gibson and seconded by Richard Rae. He was returned unopposed.

Fixtures Secretary: Andrew Graham was standing down but Andy Parry indicated that he was willing to take on this task. He was proposed by Ian Hudson and seconded by Peter Entwistle. He was returned unopposed.

Membership Secretary: Alan Springett was currently in hospital but the committee felt that it would be appropriate to reappoint him. He was proposed by Ken Ricketts and seconded by Denise Harper. He was returned unopposed.

Development Officer: Denise Harper was stepping down but there were no nominations. The post remained vacant. Katy asked people to continue to consider whether they could act in this role.

Committee Members: There are four additional posts provided under the constitution. The following were willing to act in this capacity:

- Ian Hudson (who agreed to be Acting Membership Secretary), nominated by Andy Parry and seconded by Dave Rogers.
- Ken Ricketts, nominated by Neil Frankum and seconded by Keith Ellis.
- Dave Rogers, nominated by Martin Wilson and seconded by Katy Stubbs.

This left one vacancy.

7. Any Other Business

None

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm