



Berkshire Orienteers Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

**7.00 pm, 24th February 2017
Downshire Golf Club, Wokingham,
Berkshire. RG40 3DH.**

Present:

Derick Mercer, Fiona Clough, Brian Burt, Peter Entwistle, Trevor Etherington, Mark Foxwell, Neil Frankum, Melanie & Richard Golding, Annika & Doug Greenwood, Denise & Eric Harper, Anne-Marie Hillier, Terence Hosking, Nigel Houlton, Ian Hudson, David Jukes, John Methven, Lynne & Simon Moore, Sue Parker, Andy Parry, Richard Rae, Ken Ricketts, Mark Saunders, Brian Sewell, Linda & Stefan Stasiuk, Katy Stubbs, Martin Wilson, Pete Wilson.

Apologies for absence

Alan Jones, Dave Rogers, Ian Hylton, Andrew Graham, Eddie & Toni Whittle, Glen & DI Wass.

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

1. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting (February 2016)

The minutes of the 2016 AGM had been circulated and were Proposed as correct by Fiona Clough and Seconded by Andy Parry.

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. Many thanks to David.

Committee Report on the past year (2016-17)

It was in early February 1968 that a meeting was held and those present agreed to form the Reading Orienteering Club. Since the current name was adopted as a simple replacement to that original name, we are now in the 49th year of the club's existence and, as you listen to our activities for over the last year, you might also like to be considering appropriate ways to commemorate our 50th year in 12 months' time.

So what of the last year?

Events

Our 2016 Concorde Chase was at Barossa and had taken place just prior to last year's AGM. We then completed the 2015-16 Saturday Series with 2 events at Swinley East and Langley Park – a third, planned for early March, was unfortunately cancelled due to lack of an organiser. On a warm spring day in May we staged a SCOA League event in Bloom Wood with Colin Godbold as Organiser and Stefan Stasiuk as Planner. 288 competitors enjoyed this event.

Our summer parks series last summer consisted of 3 events – Wildridings, Lower Earley and Lily Hill Park. Support for the first was disappointing with only 39 attending although numbers did pick up for the other two – 59 and 53 respectively. Our second summer picnic, arranged by Fiona Clough, was held in warm sunshine after the final one in early August. After some discussion at a recent Committee meeting, because of the low numbers at these events, it has been decided that we would not stage this series again this year to give our small band of regular volunteers more of a rest.

Our 2016-17 Saturday Series got going in September and there have now been 6 events including two in December as our New Year's Eve event at Whiteknights was part of the series. Special mention must be made of the October event which was held in Bramshill on a new map produced by Katy Stubbs. Whilst it was good to get access to this new area, it must be admitted that the plantation is still quite young and many found the terrain a surprising physical challenge. Another point to note about this event was that, at short notice, Southern Navigators used our event as part of their own Saturday League and we therefore had a much larger attendance – 235.

Collaboration with another neighbouring club can also be noted as we joined up with BADO in late October to use Greenham Common for a Night Event followed the next day by a regional league event – now branded as the SCOL - our Greenham Common event being SCOL2 in the 2016-2017 series. The two events attracted 80 and 238 competitors respectively. We can thank Fiona Clough and Peter Entwistle for Organising these events with BADO for providing the planners. Our own Eric Harper was the Controller for both of them. We see this as a useful collaboration where volunteer work-load is split over two clubs and we are supporting a smaller club to mutual benefit.

And so that brings us to this year's Concorde Chase at Hawley and Hornley. Staged at the end of January with Eoin Starkey and Fiona Clough as Organisers and Richard Rae as Planner. The event went well despite a cold dull day. At Barossa in 2016 there were 568 competitors. This year's event is showing 565 – less than 1% difference! That seems healthy except in 2009 and 2010 we had numbers in the high 600s (674 and 655).

And finally, under events, we must mention that yet again Denise Harper (with support from Eric and other members) organised a series of events for schools as part of the Berkshire Schools Games. Unfortunately, this year the final event was cancelled on the day due to heavy thunderstorms.

Administrative Issues

Events don't just happen. They need scheduling, planning and organising. They need maps and equipment. These days they need data processing and computing hardware and software. And of course they need additional people on the day to provide manpower for many tasks. Luckily the club has a dedicated core of members who are active and willing to support these various tasks. It is impossible to list everyone but a few deserve particular mention.

As Event Secretary, Fiona Clough has taken on much of the scheduling and, in the absence of others, has often taken on the role of organiser. The ability of members to orienteer locally would be considerably diminished without her contribution. As already mentioned, Katy Stubbs produced the new map of Bramshill for the October event. As well as providing varied mapping support (which often includes printing maps for events), Eric Harper continues to store and maintain the club's equipment. On the computing side, Brian Sewell has led the way in the replacement and commissioning of new hardware and software for our results processing. He has been training a small team of volunteers and we have successfully been running the results system at our Saturday events

during the year. These have around 100-150 competitors. As the team gained experience, the next stage was to support our Level C regional league events. This we did at the Greenham Common events in the Autumn. It can also be recorded that David Jukes was again recognised by the magazine CompassSport as producing a 'top ten' club newsletter during 2016 – he is now attempting to extend this to a 5th year.

As mentioned, during the year Brian has provided computing training to a results team. Other training during the year has involved a mapping course in the autumn when 7 members were given a day's introduction to the techniques used to survey areas for the production of orienteering maps. We look forward to them putting their new skills into practice! Another aspect where training has been needed is in event safety. From January this year, a new requirement linked to the national event insurance scheme is for event officials to have attended an event safety workshop. Luckily we have in the club Katy Stubbs who is able to run these courses and she recently ran a workshop attended by 6 members. More members though will need to have attended workshops in the near future as will not be able to rely on such a small number. Although many members may think that they can stage safe events, training in appropriate risk assessment and management techniques will ensure that officials can provide for safe competitions and, in the event of a problem arising, respond appropriately. It can also be mentioned that Brian Burt and Katy Stubbs recently attended a first aid course which adds to our ability to cover small events.

Another training opportunity was provided by Mark Foxwell and Katy Stubbs who arranged a technique training day at Merthyr Mawr in South Wales in June – 6 members took up this offer. More locally, Mark coordinated the summer series of Wednesday evening training sessions.

Performance

So what of results? In late February, Ian Cooper won the M70L class at the Midland Championships and followed this with a 4th place in the JK in Yorkshire and a 3rd place in the British Championships on Brown Clee Hill in May. The British Sprint and Middle Championships were in June staged in the South-East region. At the Sprints around the Olympic Park, Mark Saunders was delighted to gain 3rd place in the M35 class and, on the following day on Leith Hill, Adam Methven gained 3rd place in the M12 class.

The year's Southern Championship was staged in conjunction with the November Classic and we had two champions (Martin Wilson in M65 and Darrell Cruickshank in M90), two second placed members (Mark Saunders in M35 and Pavel Prochazka in M21) and a third place achieved by Adam Methven in M12. The final 'Championship' event of the year was the regional SCOA Championships staged by Southern Navigators on Long Valley North in early December. We had quite a number of medallists but top places were taken by Adam Methven on M12, Martin Wilson on M65, Denise Harper on W65, Gill Bennett on W70 and Darrell Cruickshank on M90.

There are various League competitions linked to orienteering events. Our local Youth League for 2015-16, coordinated by Ken Ricketts, was again dominated by children from St Andrews School under the inspiring leadership of Glyn Thomas. In the regional 2015-16 SCOA League, club members were winners in White (Robin Inness), Orange (Adam Methven) and Light Green (Antje Inness). In the regional Southern England Urban League, third places were achieved by both Mark Saunders in the Men Open and Denise Harper in Ultra Veteran Women. In the equivalent national League Martin Wilson had a convincing win in the Ultra Veteran Men's class. Consistent overall performance at top

national events during the year is covered by the UK Orienteering League and in 2016 Martin Wilson came in 2nd in the M65 class – particularly impressive for someone in his final year of an age group.

Once again, the children of St Andrew's School brought home some trophies at the national school events. In the Score Championships in October in Leicestershire, the girls won the Middle/Prep School category with the boys being narrowly beaten into second place. And then at the British Schools Championships in November at Sutton Coldfield their combined team won the trophy as Middle/Prep School Champions. Congratulations to Glyn Thomas and the children.

Under Performance, we must certainly mention our attendance at the large regional heat of the CompassSport inter-club competition in March 2016 under the captaincy of Martin Wilson. He brought a level of organisation to the BKO team which few will have seen previously. Somehow he managed to get nearly 60 members to travel to the event in the New Forest and what an impressive team it looked. With a large number of juniors swelling our ranks (thanks to St Andrews School), their shorter courses meant that we took an early lead in the competition. However we slowly sank down the order and, despite the great efforts, we were pushed into the last slot just a few points behind Southampton. Perhaps we can do better in a few weeks' time – Martin's target is for us to beat Thames Valley this year.

Finally for members results, it is worth mentioning a few international performances. Fiona Clough has been winning medals in various places – first place in a Spanish 3-event weekend in June and second place in each of the 3 events at the Porto City Race weekend in Portugal in September. Martin Wilson travelled across the Atlantic to the North American Championships and achieved third in his Middle Distance event and did even better by winning the Sprint event. And at the World Championship Mountain Bike Orienteering level, we once again had a medallist with Denise Harper taking third place in the W60 class Middle Distance event.

Land fees

So some great performances from club members with a good selection of events for members to attend whether our own local events but with many opportunities to compete on complex terrain further afield. There is one significant and worrying issue which we (and other local clubs) face. During the year, new charges were introduced for civilian access to military training areas – and by charges we mean an enormous fee – around £6 per head with a minimum fee of £1,000. This was the reason for Southern Navigators joining us at Bramshill as they cancelled the event they had planned on military land for that day. There is no way that any club can afford these fees. We are affected as Hawley and Hornley is one such area. Our Concorde Chase event went ahead with a lower (but still large) fee as permission had been granted prior to the increase. Efforts are being made to try and get the policy changed but it will need quite a campaign, even perhaps at national level.

Looking forward though, let's be positive. This report started by reminding members that we are now in the club's 49th year and that next year will represent 50 years of the club promoting the sport in Berkshire. The 2018 Concorde Chase will also be the 40th such event. We will need to celebrate both these occasions and the Committee will be trying to ensure that they are celebrated in a number of ways – suggestions are also welcome from any member.

3. Treasurers Report

Peter Entwistle circulated the audited accounts for 2016.

a. Audited Accounts 2016

The Club's Financial results for 2016 are showing a small improvement from 2015. Looking at the figures we recorded a modest SURPLUS of £984 which was an increase of £577 compared to 2015. Total Income was very close to last year but Expenditure was reduced by £509 principally because the mapping costs of £525 for Concorde 2017 paid for in 2016 were moved out of the 2016 accounts into 2017 in order to match the event income.

Cash at the Bank totalled £18,364 at the end of 2016 up by £327 from 2015.

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 – possibly 2017. The replacement cost is estimated to be in the order of £12000 and we have now built the provision up to this level. The Committee is reviewing options including contactless punching and the possibility of Sport Ident.

Summary of 2016

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

The Final OVERALL position was a surplus of £984 for 2016 together with a bank balance of £18,364. 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 Peter Entwistle & seconded by Fiona Clough.

b. Budget 2017

Peter detailed the provisional budget for 2016 with no questions.

For 2017 overall at this early date in the year we are forecasting a DEFICIT of £972. Budget proposed by Peter Entwistle and seconded by Andy Parry.

c. Membership Fees 2018

There is no proposed change to the fees for 2018.

4. Club Constitution

Due to the BOF requirement to adopt the O Safe policy the Committee has reviewed the Club Constitution and found it to be very out of date. The Committee proposed that a new Constitution be adopted. The proposed new Constitution (with commentary) had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

Derick asked if there were any comments on the proposed new Constitution, none were suggested therefore Derick proposed adopting the Constitution which was seconded by Annika Greenwood.

It is recognized that some minor changes may still be required due to the major update that has taken place (next AGM)

5. 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 **David Jukes**

Jim's Jug (For best junior)

Imogen Woodcock 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, 4th December 2016)

- Women's Champion – **Annika Greenwood**
- Men's Champion – **David Jukes**
- Junior Champion (Girls) – **Anna Methven**
- Junior Champion (Boys) – **Adam Methven**
- Handicap Champion – **Mel Golding**

6. Election of Executive Committee:

Chair: Simon Moore stated that he was willing to stand as Chair, proposed by Fiona Clough & seconded by Brian Sewell.

Secretary: Derick Mercer was willing to stand again, proposed by Katy Stubbs & seconded by Ian Hudson.

Treasurer: Peter Entwistle was willing to stand again, proposed by Neil Frankum & seconded by Nigel Hault.

Fixtures Secretary: Fiona Clough was willing to stand again, proposed by Brian Sewell & seconded by Richard Rae.

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

Development Officer: Ken Ricketts stated that he would like to stand down as Development Officer, no person present was willing to stand so the position becomes vacant. Ken agreed to draw up a role description so the task can be advertised.

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 John Methven, seconded Doug Greenwood.
- Andy Parry, with additional role of the BKO website. Proposed by Eric Harper, seconded Brian Sewell.
- Brian Sewell. Proposed by Peter Entwistle, seconded Eric Harper.

- Mark Foxwell. Proposed by Stefan Stasiuk, seconded Katy Stubbs.

Co-opted - By Officers of the Committee.

- Brian Burt.

7. Any Other Business

- a) Martin asked about how Planners for Club events were allocated? Derick responded that there is no formal process and that Planners are allocated ensuring events are shared out evenly ensuring experience is not lost due to not planning. Fiona said that she sends out emails and canvasses for volunteers for Planning and allocates accordingly. Although some emails go to Spam boxes. Andy said that members would need to filter their Spam box settings to allow Club emails through, but nothing can be done to alter Club email for members' to ease the process.
- b) Fiona informed the meeting that she is looking into 'Club Jackets' and will be researching prices and interest within the Club.
- c) Mark Saunders asked if the Club were going to hold Urban events on a regular basis. Fiona replied that yes she is scheduling an urban event within the fixtures list and hopes to hold an Urban League event possibly annually in the future.

The meeting closed at 8.11 pm and Derick thanked everyone for attending.