



Berkshire Orienteers Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

**7.00 pm, 28th February 2025
Sand Martins Golf Club**

Present:

Derick Mercer, Fiona Clough, John Methven, Simon Moore, Lynne Moore, Sue Parker, Brian Sewell, Mark Foxwell, Christine Artus, Rob & Gen Mullen, Richard Rae, Stephen Waite, Nigel Hoult, Simon Turton, Katy Stubbs, Judy Nesbit, Peter Entwistle, Neil Frankum, Jon Vaughan, Trish Monks.

Apologies for absence

Bo Oqvist, John & Jacqui Briggs, Mel & Rich Golding, Alan & Rebecca Nesbit. Stefan & Linda Stasiuk.

Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting (23rd February 2024)

The minutes of the 2024 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were Proposed as by Fiona Clough and Seconded by Derick Mercer.

1. Chairman's Report

Simon welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the following account of the year's activities;

Saturday event at Swinley West. Planned by Trish Monks and Jon Vaughn. Organised by John Methven. Very Wet underfoot, but a theme that continued for a lot of events this year.

Regional event at Rushall's. Planned by Steve Waite, Organised by Jane Courtier with Alan Kersley as controller. Again, heavy rain affected both the car parking and the runnability in the forest.

Saturday event at Burghfield. Planned by myself and Organised by Lynne. No actual rain on the day but hadn't really dried out from the winter rain.

Summer Parks event at Wild Ridings. Planned by Stefan Stasiuk and Organised by Peter Entwistle. Some very challenging courses, but only 30 entries.

Summer Parks event at Windsor and Eton. Also planned by Stefan and Organised by Mark Foxwell. This had over 80 entries. -

Saturday event at Benyon's Enclosure. Planned by Andrew Southwood and organised by Peter Entwistle. It was our first time back at Beynon's since they started the quarry work. This has significantly reduced the size of the forest. We thought we had a new good parking area – only to find

on the day that it had been filled with log piles. Fortunately, there was enough forest road parking for the hundred participants.

In October, David Jukes organised the British Trail O Champs at Burnham Beeches and White Knights Park with a range of club members helping to run the event.

Regional event at Swinley East also in October like the earlier Swinley event, planned by Trish and Jon with John Methven again organising. Large parts of Swinley East have now been felled, making it more difficult to plan interesting longer courses.

After last year's trial run, we held the Southern Night Champs at Star Posts. Planned by Mark Foxwell and Organised by Bo Oqvist. We had over 150 competitors on the night.

Most recently we've held the Concorde Chase weekend in January. This was 2 very contrasting days.

The Saturday urban at Great Hollands and Wild Ridings on a nice sunny day with around 230 runners.

Sunday in Cold Ash with a lower than usual 485 entries with heavy rain setting in and the car park filled becoming the quagmire that you all know about. A big thanks to Fiona and all the helpers involved in getting cars out of the field.

In addition, Mark arranged a whole range of summer training events and MapRun courses across the summer – Including Sprint Training at White Knights Park which proved very popular both inside and outside the club as it took place just before the British Sprint Champs.

Behind the scenes;

I'd like to thank all those in the club who keep it running this is not just the members of the committee, but many other members as well... – In particular, all those who have planned or organised events in the last year. We try and put on a large number of Saturday events, summer events and training events as well as our larger events. And while we seem to be able to get volunteers to help on the day, it has been increasingly difficult to find people who are willing to plan and organise these events. This means we will need to be realistic about the number of events we can put on in the future and will have to match the number of events with the number of volunteers willing to organise them. It currently looks like we will have to cancel a number of the events planned for 2025 as we don't have volunteers coming forwards.

2. Treasurers Report

Lynne had circulated the audited accounts for 2024 prior to the meeting. The following Q's were asked.

1. Trish asked what was included within Debtors.

Answer - The Debtors figure of £3,575 consists of prepayments for hire of toilets, matting etc which were made in 2024 for the 2025 Concorde Chase. It also includes prepayments applicable to future accounting periods e.g. a 5 year SI timing licence was purchased in 2025 but will be spread over 5 years.

2. SI Batteries - Referring to the Fixed Asset Report, Nigel asked if there was a separate stock of SI batteries.

Answer. No, the batteries are integral to the SI units and dibbers. They are listed separately as the batteries have a different (shorter) depreciation rate to the units.

3. Fiona asked what impairments were.

Answer - these are the value of lost SIAC dibbers. It should be noted that when dibbers are lost, the club charges £72 which is received as income.

Proposed Nigel Holt, Seconded Christine Artus.

BKO Treasurer's Report – AGM Meeting 28th February 2025

Accounts - 2024

The Income & Expenditure Report, Balance Sheet, and Auditor's Report for 2024 have been circulated to members.

Overall, 2024 was a financially stable year for BKO. Our accounts covered costs whilst also allowing for equipment depreciation. We initially budgeted for a deficit of approximately £1,400, but by year-end, we achieved a modest surplus of just under £1,000. This was largely due to relatively strong event surpluses, driven by a slight increase in entry fees and healthy participation numbers.

I am currently preparing the 2025 Budget, which will be finalised by the Committee at our next meeting. The 2024 Balance Sheet reports Current Assets of £6,611, reflecting an increase of approximately £1,000 from the previous year. This growth provides an opportunity to invest limited funds into an area of the club that requires improvement.

We recognise that our website has become outdated, making it difficult for both newcomers to navigate and the Committee to update. To address this, we propose using a portion of our investment funds to develop a new website. As a result, we anticipate a deficit of approximately £2,000–£3,000 in 2025. The club adopted a new Finance Policy in March 2024 outlining how our finances are managed. The policy requires the club to have a minimum of £5,000 cash reserves for operational reasons and therefore, we will ensure this level is retained following this investment.

A key challenge facing the club is the decline in membership numbers. This affects not only our pool of volunteers to run events but also our ability to generate income for future investments and development. Increasing membership and participation in the sport is therefore a priority to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

We remain committed to prudent financial management while seeking opportunities to grow and strengthen the club.

2024 Event finances:

Event	Date	Income	Expenditure	Net
Concorde chase - 2 days	28/01/2024	£11,959.63	£9,419.47	£2,540.16
Swinlev West Level D	24/02/2024	£288.65	£483.32	-£194.67
Rushalls Wood Level C	17/03/2024	£2,389.50	£1,373.75	£1,015.75
Burghfield Level D	27/04/2024	£718.16	£372.24	£345.92
Wildridings Summer series	08/06/2024	£242.83	£114.10	£128.73

Windsor Summer Series	17/08/2024	£558.36	£295.43	£262.93
Benyons Inclosure Level D	28/09/2024	£716.11	£356.75	£359.36
Trail O champs	13/10/2024	£1,211.75	£1,199.92	£11.83
Swinley East Level C	26/10/2024	£2,275.84	£1,511.86	£763.98
Star Posts Night Champs	28/12/2024	£2,302.85	£1,568.18	£734.67

Lynne Moore, BKO Treasurer, February 26th 2025

The budget & audited accounts were proposed by Nigel Holt, Seconded Christine Artus.

c. Membership Fees 2026

Lynne said that from the recent Committee meeting we propose that the annual membership fees are increased for the year commencing 2026. Increasing by 1£ with Juniors staying the same. After discussion it was agreed for the increase to 8 pounds. Proposed by Fiona Clough, Seconded Jon Vaughan.

Peter asked about our rates for young adults charge and the Committee suggested 5£ Proposed Brian Sewell & Seconded by Katy Stubbs.

3. Club Constitution

There are no proposed changes to the fees for 2025.

4. Awards – For 2024;

Derek Harding Award (For services to the club) – **Trish Monks**

Jim's Jug (For best junior) – **Gen Mullens**

Club Champions (Based on results at the Championship at the HH's event on the 17th November, Whippendell Woods.

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|---------------------------|----------------------|
| • Women's Champion | Lisa Methven |
| • Men's Champion | John Methven |
| • Junior Champion (Girls) | Gen Mullens |
| • Junior Champion (Boys) | No Entries |
| • Handicap Champion | Sally Collins |

5. Election of Executive Committee:

The current named committee members were willing to stand for another year apart from Stephen Waite who was standing down, all other Committee members were willing to stand.

Chair: Simon Moore - Proposed Fiona Clough, Mark F seconded Katy Stubbs.

Secretary: Derick Mercer - Proposed Jon Vaughan, seconded Trish Monks.

Treasurer: Lynne Moore - Proposed Fiona Clough, seconded Brian Sewell.

Fixtures Secretary: Bo Oqvist - Proposed Rob Mullens, Seconded Nigel Hoults.

Membership Secretary: Ian Hudson - Proposed Katy Stubbs, seconded Neill Frankum.

Development Officer: - Vacant.

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;

- Rob Mullens.
- Brian Sewell.
- Mark Foxwell.
- Fiona Clough.

The above were proposed by Gen Mullens and seconded by Jim Munday.

Club Captain – John Methven.

Co-opted - By Officers of the Committee.

- Peter Entwistle
- Vacant

Non-Committee Club positions;

Welfare Officer: Sue Parker

Junior Manager: John Methven.

6. Any Other Business

- a) Simon thanked Steve for his time on the Committee
- b) Jon asked if have we any plans for growing the membership, how do we increase new membership and Simon said that we are looking at ways to increase numbers. John Methven said he has looked at Reading Uni as part of last years training schedule and we have a couple of new members. We have also done Maprun and Find Your Way events to try to encourage new membership. Gen talked about improving BKO's social media profile (Tiktok, Instagram) from where we could entice new membership. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- c)

Simon thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.