



# The Black & Green Oct 2015

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** (with refreshments provided)

All NOC members are invited on Sunday 18th October at Portland College (Adjacent to and after the Harlow Woods event)

Starting at approx. 12.30

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. [Minutes of the A.G.M. 2014](#) and any matters arising from them
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Auditor
6. Membership Fees
7. Election of Officers
8. Any Other Business
9. Close of Meeting.... followed by open forum.

NB: There will be an opportunity to discuss any other matters pertaining to the club in a short open forum. One item to be discussed could be **the introduction of a NOC membership fee** from November 2016.

## Chairman's Report

Has a year really passed since the last AGM?

My thanks on your behalf to the Committee members, other volunteers with specific roles and the dedicated organisers, planners and controllers who make it possible for the rest of us to pursue our sport.

During the last year the club promoted some **15** events that were enjoyed by **2393** competitors or should one write participants? Of these, two were level B events, four at level C and nine at level D. Additionally we organized two other events that had to be cancelled or postponed and assisted Red Bull in the promotion of their 'challenge'. As the Acting Treasurer will report we made a healthy operating profit principally from the larger events. Maybe there are other conclusions that can be drawn from the statistics?

However, over the last year there have been a number of challenges that have had to be addressed by your committee. The most significant of these was again the recruitment of volunteers to undertake the tasks that are essential both to the smooth running of our events and key committee posts.

There have been a number of committee vacancies unfilled for some considerable time and I am grateful to those members who have taken on additional responsibilities to cover the functions of those vacant posts. Particularly critical is the role of Volunteer Co-ordinator who assists all those who run events. So I urge the membership, again, to come forward and help with the essential tasks required for our sport to function. There is training and support available.

I would like to use this opportunity to remind members that we operate a 'team' system for supporting event organisers and planners. Can I ask the membership to firstly reply to 'availability' e-mails from their team leader and secondly offer up an hour of their time at an event so that a 'shift system' can be set in place to ensure everyone has a run on that day.

Last year I indicated that the committee had started to address the challenge of the web site. It was our belief that in order to attract a younger membership and continue to inform the wider community we needed to make our site more flexible and user friendly. I can report that this task is now well under way and that we expect a new design and updating of the content to be completed early in the New Year.

An especial thank you must be made to Mark Webster, our Secretary who has continued to also act as Treasurer for the last year. The committee have received regular updates on the financial position of the club and this has permitted us to invest in the provision of mapping software, training opportunities and the purchase of new items of club clothing. We think investment in the latter is most important in the continuing quest to unite the club and gives ourselves a sense of identity over and above our participation in events. That we are also financially so sound is most welcome to the committee, as one less thing to worry about.

The coming year also provides an important milestone in the history of the club, it being the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the emergence of Nottinghamshire Orienteering Club. Your

committee felt it important that we mark such an anniversary with a celebration that will bring together our founders, existing enthusiasts and hopefully some of our newer and younger members for a social evening, including dancing! The date for this event is the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

For those of you who were able to come to our 'Open Meeting' in August I hope that you found the event thought - provoking and informative. As I hope my report indicated there was a considerable amount of healthy debate about the club and it's functioning. There seemed to me, to be an agreement about our need for both competition and social activity, not forgetting the importance of nurturing both younger members and older newcomers.

Quite what the balance should be and how that might be best achieved is still a matter of debate but I hope you, the membership feel that we are aware of the contradictions but are moving ahead in developing answers to, at least, some of the concerns.

Lastly, we must not let this opportunity pass to congratulate the following club members who have done well in competitions this year:

- Ant Squire - M35L CHAMPION at both the British and JK
- Hilary Palmer – 2nd at both the British Sprint & Middle Championships
- Peter Hodgkinson - World Orienteering Championships - Sprint Reserve
- NOC M18 British Relay 2nd - James Mellor, Rowan Lee, Jack Smith

Finally I would like to thank on your behalf all the members of your committee, both those of the immediate past and currently still serving. Their dedication ensures that we can all enjoy more opportunities to take part in our chosen sport. May I urge you, the membership to offer your help in filling those committee places now available and to assist in the promotion and provision of Orienteering events.

Andrew Breakwell

NOC Chair 2015

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## **Event Safety Workshop**

Hilary Palmer is running an Event Safety Workshop at Rushcliffe Country Park (1.30 - 4pm) on **14th November**.

A challenge run at 11.30, followed by lunch and then the workshop - free to all members. Please contact Hilary to put your name down.

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## **Rushcliffe Orienteers: Autumn Challenges**

Saturdays 26 September, 24 October, 14 November & 12 December

11.15am - 12.30pm Main car park and register near the Environmental Centre

How many controls (checkpoints) can you find in 45 mins?

Different maps for each session with possible courses up to 6.5km to suit everyone.

Register from 11.15 and start 11.30 - 11.45.

All finish by 12.30 and compare routes with others.

Hope to see many of you again - why not bring friends and have your own competition?

As usual, there will be help for newcomers

Hilary

0115 982 0651

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## **Important Diary date 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Why? Because it's the Compass Sport Cup, and after some lean years we are keen to once again enter a really strong team.

Get your entries to Andy Llewellyn (club captain) ASAP

## **REPORT ON THE 'OPEN MEETING' SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2015**

Nottinghamshire Scout Headquarters, Linby

Some twenty members of the club met for nearly three hours to discuss ways by which NOC could move forward and develop. Contributions by e-mail were also received from six other members. That's probably just over 10% of the total membership and more like 25% of those who either compete or contribute on a regular basis. People think we're a big club, the reality is rather different, as some of those who attended found out for the first time.

Our task was to think about the future, because it's becoming quite clear that there are a number of challenges that we all need to address imminently if we are to maintain our reputation, develop our participation levels and continue to play a full part in the development of our sport locally, regionally and nationally.

The activities of the morning were divided into three parts, considering first the nature of the Orienteering experience, secondly the offer we make to both existing members and newcomers and then thirdly, the actions we need to take in order to change the dynamics of the club. These discussions were firstly held in small groups addressing a number of tasks defined by a facilitator. As the morning progressed the discussions became open ended, less task orientated and more discursive.

The first task was to think about why each of us has chosen to Orienteer. There was a surprising unanimity about our choices and most people recorded the physical and mental challenges in a competitive environment as being primary drivers for their participation. The second most noted motivation was the activity being outdoors in pleasing countryside and the third most notable choice was concerned with the sociability of the sport.

The groups were then asked to consider what might be the primary functions of the club for firstly newcomers and then more experienced Orienteers. This was an ordering exercise that created some fierce debate. Conclusions to be drawn from this activity were that there was a tension between the needs of the experienced orienteer and that of the newcomer, that technical development was an important issue, that social opportunities were significant for some and that our sport is not just a 'cheap day out'.

This activity was followed by an analysis of the present features of the club by considering the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats with which we have to contend. This paper exercise had been carried out by a number of participants prior to the meeting and we considered the collated version and amended it within the overall discussion (see below). Arising from this debate came a number of 'action points' also delineated below. We were fortunate that in Orienteering Focus (Summer 2015) there was also an article about the development strategies of South Yorkshire Orienteers. This provided a concise series of references to inform our deliberations.

As you'll see from the 'Actions' list there are a number of 'quick wins' that we've identified and some more long term challenges, not the least of which is how your club committee, concerned as it must be with the provision of events, might find time and

energy to undertake those tasks. Significantly, for me, is the idea from SYO of a partly paid post of 'Development Officer' who would recruit a specific, time limited, sub-committee just concerned with addressing these issues. Perhaps this matter could be an item for debate at the forthcoming AGM?

I hope that you, as a club member, will find matters in this report upon which you can reflect, then question our findings and join the debate via the web site, Black & Green or through a committee member. There are real and present dangers for the future of our club that need all of us, to consider and then act together if NOC is to maintain its reputation, its skill base and the provision of Orienteering experiences to the standard that we all expect and enjoy.

Andrew

## **ACTIONS**

- Review nature of events and social activities
- Encourage membership to attend 'training courses'
- Establish a dialogue with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
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- Develop a sense of club identity
- Upgrade web site and develop use of social media
- Develop maps for new areas of competition and/or training
- 
- Create a 'Welcome Pack' for new members
- Target Junior development and participation
- Include 'Next Event' notifications on all event maps

## NOC AWAY DAY - SWOT ANALYSIS

<p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <p>Many members who are experienced event officials at all levels and a keen team manager</p> <p>Good reputation for organising events</p> <p>System of helper teams aids event organisation</p> <p>Many up-to-date mapped areas – forests, parks, urban</p> <p>Keen club coaches (approx. 3-4) able to put on activities for membership</p> <p>Good county coverage so access to large number of areas</p> <p>Inexpensive event fees for participants and/or members</p> <p>Healthy finances</p> <p>IT resources</p> <p>Wide range of equipment and 'kit'</p> <p>Some strength in 'male elite' classes</p> <p>Two active 'hub' clubs</p>	<p><b>Opportunities:</b></p> <p>Make better use of web site and social media</p> <p>Two well established community clubs</p> <p>Enough parks mapped in Nottingham for promotional events</p> <p>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and staging Midland Champs Feb 2016 a way of improving club cohesion and sense of belonging?</p> <p>New club jackets &amp; hats</p> <p>Membership fees which include some free event entry or vouchers for club clothing to help develop feeling of 'belonging'</p> <p>New members for helper groups, introduce a 'buddy' system?</p> <p>Split some committee jobs and/or hold an annual open meeting to help membership feel involved and responsible for volunteering</p> <p>Club members on EMOA training courses</p> <p>POC's</p>
<p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <p>Disparity in membership profile (very few junior members) raises questions about long-term viability of club</p> <p>Competition programme does not promote interaction between members</p> <p>No social programme</p> <p>Newcomers not being nurtured as helpers</p> <p>Level C and D events too similar and lack of competitions at national level</p> <p>Web site promotion &amp; lack of social media</p> <p>Covers the county so not a 'local' club</p> <p>Lack of membership fee suggests a 'pay and play' sport</p> <p>Low profile in education sector</p>	<p><b>Threats:</b></p> <p>Membership could drift away to other clubs</p> <p>Insufficient volunteers to maintain club infrastructure and organise events</p> <p>Inability to maintain 'club mark' status</p> <p>Volunteer mapper 'burn-out' and need to use paid mappers – threat to financial stability</p> <p>Younger people may be put off by numbers of over 55/60s</p> <p>Sport of orienteering has become very complicated to organise and administer</p> <p>Officials ageing &amp; not able to be replaced</p> <p>Withdrawal of Sport England grant to BOF</p> <p>Forest Access and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Event fatigue?</p>



## 50 years of Orienteering in Nottinghamshire Celebration and Ceilidh

As you have no doubt seen in communication recently NOC will be celebrating 50th years of Orienteering in the County in 2016, the first event was held at Sherwood Forest, the venue for the Midland Champs on 28th February. To celebrate we are organising a party on the Friday night 26th Feb at Rainworth Village Hall.

The evening will commence at 7.00 with a hot/cold buffet at 7.45pm followed by presentations and a ceilidh band. Tickets will be only £10:00 (*including first drink*) each as the club is subsidising the evening and will be available from any committee member or contact Pauline Olivant

Closing date for tickets is Friday 19th Feb to enable us to place the food order.

**Dietary needs can be catered for, please let Pauline know in advance so she can arrange with the caterers.**

We hope all present and past members will be there, if anyone knows of any past members please pass on the flyer or let us their the contact details.

Do you have any old photos of the club please let either Keith Streb or David Olivant have a copy, preferable electronically but paper copies are ok as well.

[d.olivant@btinternet.com](mailto:d.olivant@btinternet.com) or [keith.streb@ntlworld.com](mailto:keith.streb@ntlworld.com)

We hope all club members and their partners will join us to celebrate half a century of orienteering in Nottinghamshire .

Pauline Olivant email [p.olivant@btinternet.com](mailto:p.olivant@btinternet.com) 01623792336



## **East Midlands Orienteering Association**

### **Regional Training and Development Day**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015**

**At Charnwood College, Thorpe Hill, Loughborough LE11 4SQ**

As part of the EMOA's commitment to the initial training and development of event officials, coaches and those wishing to refresh their knowledge and experience we will be putting on another series of workshops and courses on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

#### **Courses on offer.**

##### **Event Safety & Welfare Module (Morning)**

This qualification is now mandatory for all events officials.

##### **Event Organiser Level C/B (Afternoon)**

Primarily of interest to those Organising Level C and D events for the first time but a re-cap for all organisers.

##### **Event Planner Level C/B.**

For all interested in Planning at whatever level, though primarily of interest to those starting at Level C and D. Use will be made of the British Orienteering Appendix to the Rules of Orienteering on Planning.

##### **Controller Level C.**

For experienced event officials who wish to take on the role of Controller, primarily at Level C and D. Participants must have planned and organised at Level C within the last 5 years.

##### **Mapping - Basic Course.**

This is the first part of a two-day course intended to get novice mappers up to the level where they can carry out initial surveying and cartography, including the use of mapping software.

##### **Physical Conditioning for Club Orienteering Coaches (of any level)**

A workshop led by Paul Murgatroyd.

Paul is a member of LOG, an active Level 3 Coach, a senior lecturer in Sport & Exercise Science at the University of Lincoln and is currently working in a consultancy role as the physical conditioning coach to the GB Talent Squad.

During the day there will be a mix of theory and practical examples so that coaches will feel more confident leading physical training in their clubs.

This workshop will be very good personal development for coaches and participants will receive a British Orienteering attendance certificate. For those who may want to progress to Level 3 at a later date, this will count towards your prior learning.

There will be some pre-workshop reading for all participants which will be sent by email 2 - 3 weeks before the day.

Lunch, teas and coffee will be provided for all participants. Please let me know if you have special dietary needs.

To book a place contact Chris Phillips, Regional Development Coordinator.

Email [onecp47@gmail.com](mailto:onecp47@gmail.com)

### **Closing date for entries 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Clubs are asked to make a contribution of £5 (£15 for non EMOA clubs) per club member attending the Regional Training Day.

*Ed Note at close of play there were only three persons from NOC on the mapping course and NONE on the Organiser or Planner Courses. These are just the first steps towards being a club official and we offer full support/mentoring to anyone who attends should they feel the need it at any later events they are part of.*

*Without new officials it the club is drawing on a smaller and older set of members each year...please consider attending if you wish orienteering to continue in its present form within Notts*

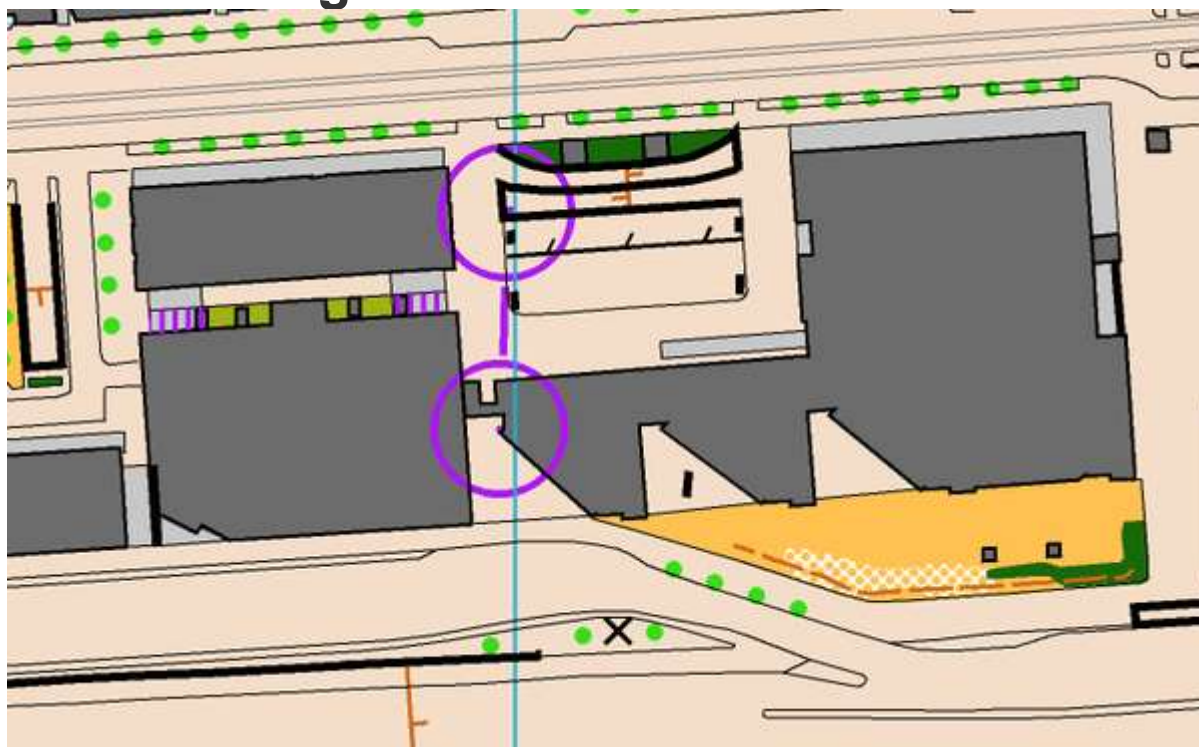
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### **RED BULL Orienteering / Adventure race 1/11/2015 Sherwood Pines**

If there are any entries left by the time you read this here's the link

<http://www.redbull.com/uk/en/adventure/events/1331748592150/robin-hood-orienteering-adventure-race>

## Do we need clarification dots in sprint orienteering?



**Reading the control description is part of the game in sprint orienteering today. Sometimes a big part of the game – ignoring the control description can leave you very unhappy at the wrong side of a high fence.**

But should reading the control description be an important part of sprint orienteering? Kalle Rantala posted the map sample above on Twitter (suggesting to follow ski-orienteering and put a “clarification dot” in the center of the circle. Mårten Boström retweeted it – and both Boström’s and Rantala’s Tweets have gotten a lot of attention on Twitter.

Clarification dot – a good idea? What do you think?

Some discussion on this on the NOC Facebook page (*If you don't do FB then you are missing out on a lot of interesting things on any number of subjects*)

### **Next NOC fixtures**

Sun 11th Oct Shirebrook Wood

Sun 18th Oct Harlow Wood & AGM

Sun 8th Nov Thoresby North

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Dec Bramcote Hills

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Feb Sherwood Forest ( Midland Championships)

This Black and Green was created in Microsoft Word. If you wish to submit copy please try to keep the formatting to an absolute minimum as I still type with only 2 fingers 😊

Send to [bag\\_ed@noc-uk.org](mailto:bag_ed@noc-uk.org)

Most formats can be handled..... eventually.