

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ORIENTEERING CLUB HELD ON TUESDAY 31st
OCTOBER 2000 at 7.30pm AT CHILWELL OLYMPIA, CHILWELL,
NOTTINGHAM.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tony Donaldson	John Dalton	John Palmer	Hilary Palmer
Pauline Olivant	David Olivant	Bob Alderson	Peter Bourne
Tony Buckland	Margaret Buckland	Janet Evans	Gill Hatfield
Bob Hatfield	Jim Clarke	Hilary Hodgkinson	Peter Hubberstey
Ray Barnes	Michael Napier	Helen O'Neil	Mick Lucking
Catherine Hughes	Richard Torr	Stephen Wright(Sen)	Stephen Wright(Jun)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following members:

Alan Gould	Keith Streb	Nick Evans	Hazel Rice
Mike O'Neil	Jad Dziadosz	Eric Gebbett	Val Gebbett

2. MINUTES OF THE 1999 AGM

The minutes of the 1999 AGM were accepted.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None arose

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Tony Donaldson)

Introduction

A slightly different format for tonight in that I would prefer to move through the formal business as quickly as possible as there are a few items on the agenda that perhaps merit a few different viewpoints. Besides - generally speaking I'm going to be preaching to the converted in a meeting like this.

The main items that came to mind when I was racking my brain to think about this meeting were:-
The events we have held and are planning to hold.

The state of the club membership - for those of you shuffling nervously I'm referring to numbers rather than physical attributes.

The committee

The aims for the next year (we'll talk about that later)

Fixtures are the primary thing we do in this sport - either hosting or attending.

We've had another busy year hosting 10 events this year (not including the summer league and afternoon o-zone events.

I have competed at a further 25 events in addition to this - all good fun if a little wet and painful at times. I'm sure that some of you have been to several more.

The event schedule we try to achieve amounts to approximately one event each month - which takes more than a little dedication. I've said it before but thanks again on behalf of all the organisers.

I don't wish to show favouritism but my favourites for this year that NOC held were the little John relays and the British Schools score champs- we showed what we can achieve.

Over the coming year we will host a similar number of events and maintain the service to our many members who are less inclined to travel all over the country in search of that elusive perfect run and bramble free environment as some of us.

We will be hosting a short race/ badge event weekend next year after a break this year. This time we aim to reach our usual standards of efficiency and also make a contribution to club coffers which have remained fairly static for a while. We will also host the British Schools Championships next year - we are more than capable.

I've asked the committee to summarise their particular area of responsibility so if they would like to give us their thoughts before I continue, now seems appropriate.

Membership Secretary's Report (Helen O'Neil)

Current membership stands at 266 individuals and 2 group members (this does not include juniors who are members of NOC by attending Notts Schools who belong to BSOA). 44 members did not renew in 2000 (of which there were 6 families and 21 individuals) but we gained 26 new members. I sent out 45 enquiry replies in 1999/2000. Overall there was a loss of membership of 18.

Mapping Report (Keith Streb)

Well its parole time again..... I have now finished my 7th year as NOC Mapping Coordinator and I'm free at last.....

At least thats how it should be! because just as at the end of the first stretch I am unable to find a successor.

After much debate I have come to the conclusion that the post of mapping co-ordinator does not really need to be done by a mapper, merely someone who is willing to look after the map stocks, control cards, etc and further more be willing to take them to NOC events or get them to the event officials as well as to occasionally drink coffee and eat chocolate biscuits at the NOC committee meetings.

To this end we require someone with some free time and enough room to be able to store the map stocks which take up approx a decent sized wardrobe or loft-space or spare room or.... well you get the picture.

Both David, Pauline and myself will continue to survey-revise-redraw as and when required and co-ordinate volunteers so will someone step forward or else you will all have to suffer interminable editorials once I take over as editor of the club magazine.....:-)

I personally have 4 mapping projects on the go for the forthcoming winter so as you can see I will have my weekends (well Saturdays anyway!) well taken care of.

Actually this is the first time since NOC was formed that we have commissioned three professional maps in any one year namely "Byron's Walk, Harlow Wood, and Haywood Blidworth and Sansom Woods" the first by Peel Survey you will have had the pleasure of early in the year the second by Robert's Mapping which is a brand new area adjacent to Thieves Wood in a couple of weeks and finally the third by The Mapworks at our badge event February 2001.

These maps were a bargain at approx £3,000 so do come along and see what the club is spending your money on and if you feel that you would be willing to look after all those lovely maps then let myself or any member of the committee know so that I can reclaim my loft ASAP

Thanks (Keith Streb)

(David Olivant was subsequently proposed and seconded as mapping co-ordinator and elected unopposed)

Team Manager's Report (Catherine Hughes)

NOC did exceptionally to reach the Compass Sport finals again this year by beating last year's finalists in the qualifying round and in this we were helped by our junior's dominance in the younger age classes. The juniors again did exceptionally well in the Yvette Baker Trophy competition, the

Harvester and Peter Palmer Relays. Thanks to Jim Clarke for organising the Peter Palmer teams.

Fixtures Secretary (Richard Torr)

To recap the year 1999/2000:

in the second half of 1999 there were 4 C5, 2 N5, 2C4 events and the Xmas special.

In 2000 there have been 2 C4, 2 C5, 1 O4 (short race), 1 R5 (Little John Relays) and 7 X5 (summer league events) as well as the British School Score Champs at Blidworth in October 2000.

This is a good number of events despite losing O4 Thieves Wood event which had disappointedly to be cancelled due to low numbers of entries for the paired days of short races in February 2000 and the cancellation of summer league and night events due to lack of officials. This is a big disappointment and there is a big challenge in finding organisers and helpers for events.

Areas are also becoming more expensive (e.g. Walesby wish to charge NOC £1.50 a head for access) but thanks to all who continue to officiate and for your continued support and co-operation. I've now completed my 3 years and good luck to Ray who's taking over.

Junior Rep's report (Stephen Wright (Jun))

The juniors have continued to have many individual successes during the past year as well as outstanding team success. We have had an exceptional number of juniors chosen to represent their countries at International level and also for training tours.

During the past 12 months the NOC juniors have won all 3 junior team competitions (the Yvette Baker Trophy taking both 1st and 2nd places for the A and B teams, the Junior Harvester Relay trophy and the Peter Palmer Relay). This means that the NOC juniors have won the Yvette Baker Trophy and the Peter Palmer Relay Trophy for each of the past 3 years and the Harvester Relay for 3 out of the past 4 years. It is therefore fair to say that the NOC Juniors have been the number 1 Junior Club in Orienteering over the past 3 years.

Coaching Report (Hilary Palmer - incoming coaching rep)

On behalf of NOC Pauline Olivant and I met the Notts County Council Sports Development Officer, Mandy Wright in August to discuss how we could work together now that their Go for Gold and Champion Coaching schemes have ended. The new Active Sports programmes will not include orienteering in the initial stages. Mandy suggested that we submit an application under the Community Initiative Fund (administered by the Sports Section). I sent in an application on the same day and have received notification (and the cheque) of a grant of £548 towards the costs of running junior coaching sessions (approx 6 per term) over the year Sept 2000 - 2001. The sessions have been targeted at youngsters aged 8 to 12 who have experienced orienteering at school, through the O zone work or younger siblings of NOC members. To date 3 sessions have been held with numbers attending varying from 5 on a day with pouring rain to 15 on the other 2 occasions. Hopefully this will bring about some more permanent members of NOC.

The next BOF Coaching day will be held on the Saturday after Easter, April 21, in the Lake District and I would hope that some NOC members will take part. On the following day a Badge event will be held on Balkeholm - this will be an attractive weekend package. I will notify NOC members when more details are known.

Chairman's Report concluded :

I must thank the committee for their outstanding work and contribution to the club. Not only do they give up their evenings occasionally to attend and prepare for meetings, they also tend to help at most of the events - and are prepared to listen to me. Hell indeed.

Recruiting membership remains a challenge which we continue to struggle with. The idea of the O-zone was good and I think that we have tried to encourage people in the Mansfield area as best we can. If we haven't seen a surge in membership from our efforts it's not for a lack of trying.

We have raised the profile of the sport in the area and continue to do so by press releases, schools liaison and undoubtedly by word of mouth as we enable people to come for a walk or a jog in the woods with their children. I suspect that we will continue to have an ad hoc following in this way - people will join when they want to rather than when we would prefer. We must keep chipping away. Put up a poster in the kitchen at work with the events on it - show the locations on a map - emphasise that it's a bit of fun.

Whatever we do at events as well we must make sure that first timers are not put off by being out in the woods for ages. An easy jog around a yellow is good enough for a first outing if it's a bit tricky in the woods.

The website is a useful tool and is being increasingly used as a way for beginners to find where events are. Thanks go to Ray and Stephen for their work in this respect.

Lastly we are about to receive electronic punching in the east midlands. This hopefully will be seen by newcomers and seasoned orienteers alike as a sign of progress and modernity in the sport. Having yawned my way through much of September and early October due to late night coverage of the Olympics I am convinced that we participate in one of the remaining sports where performance relies on the athlete rather than on the kit they use. A message worth spreading maybe.

And Finally...

On a personal note, I've now been in the job two years which have flown by. A new chair takes over next year. Some new blood on the committee would be good as it prevents the club stagnating. Somebody without other major commitments would be best as the job requires time to do properly. The rewards are there in the fact that the club is successful and it is a good feeling to be associated with it.

Thanks

5. TREASURER'S REPORT (Gill Hatfield)

The treasurer presented her report. The club had small deficit for the year of £32. The accounts included a BOF grant for schools mapping of £650 so without this the club would have had a deficit of around £700. The accounts were accepted. Income from events continues to be down due to a drop in attendance and the higher BOF levy. We need more income from events.

The treasurer proposed that the club should aim to increase the income from colour coded events to cover the increased cost of the BOF levy since April 2000. Under the new system the club is charged a BOF levy for all competitors including helpers (who previously were exempt from the BOF levy). The treasurer suggested 2 options for Colour Coded events:

- 1) Introduce a nominal entry fee (e.g. £1 senior, 50p junior) for helpers who wish to run
- 2) OR increase adult and junior entry fees by 50p bringing it up to £4.50 non BOF and £3.50 BOF adult members, junior rate to be left at £1 or increased by 50p also to £1.50, consider introducing a family rate of £7, but continue to allow helpers a free run.

After discussion the conclusion of the meeting was to continue with the principle of free runs for helpers, to increase the CC entry fees, the amount to be decided by the committee.

6. ELECTION OF AUDITOR

This was left to be decided.

7. MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2000

There was a discussion about the possibility of introducing a NOC membership fee. The meeting decided to continue without a NOC membership fee for the following year but agreed that this should be reviewed at the AGM in 2001.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

As all posts had a single nominee they were accepted without a vote. The committee for 2000 is:

Chair	Anthony Donaldson
Secretary	Helen O'Neil
Treasurer	John Dalton
Coaching Co-ordinator	Hilary Palmer
Mapping Co-ordinator	David Olivant
EMOA Rep	Pauline Olivant
Fixtures Secretary	Ray Barnes
Team Manager	Catherine Hughes

Keith Streb has agreed to take over editing the Black and Green from Ray Barnes.

There were no nominations for life members

9. PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR (Tony Donaldson)

We as a club are intending to continue as before to a great extent although we will be trying to improve on a couple of areas.

Fixtures are the primary thing the club is about. We will continue to host, on average, one fixture each month including a short race and Badge event weekend in February and the British Schools championships next autumn. We will also continue to host summer league events as far as possible although we will perhaps alter the format to encourage better attendance. I think that 'proper' orienteering courses with more visible controls are the way but the committee are open to suggestions.

The club received criticism this year for a lack of advertised fixtures and attendances were down on what we would prefer. This was due to many factors not least of which was a need to alter a few fixtures at short notice.

It's not easy to organise events at short notice so from now on we will be assigning organisers to fixtures as far ahead as we can. We will also be dedicating a couple of meetings a year purely to fixtures. Realistically we need to have set all the fixtures for at least 12 months ahead. We are moving towards that goal but we still have work to do.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Code of Ethics and Conduct. This document was presented to the meeting by Ray Barnes to consider whether NOC should adopt it within their constitution. The meeting agreed that the committee should review this and present it again if appropriate.

Sportident: Michael Napier is going to set up a meeting of members involved in introducing Sportident in forthcoming fixtures (C4 Walesby Jan 2001, O5 Thieves Wood and C3 Blidworth Feb 2001) to introduce them to the procedures involved.

Juniors forthcoming Yvette Baker Interclub competition. The meeting agreed that NOC should organise a coach for transport to this and Pauline Olivant agreed to organise this. (Last year's coach costs were recovered by the charge to Juniors + a grant of £67 to cover the remainder)

'Elite' team O kit for our M and W 21 teams, possibly 20 tops at approx £25 each, discussion, NOC should seek sponsorship for these.

TV coverage of the British Schools Score Champs on East Midlands today (thanks to Ray Barnes)

New helper groups. These are in the process of being constructed by the membership secretary

(Helen O'Neil) and the incoming fixtures secretary (Ray Barnes) with the hope that it will be possible to plan 12 months ahead, allowing helpers to specify at which events they are able to help and thereby increase our ability to best use our helpers.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m..