

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ORIENTEERING CLUB HELD ON TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER 1999 AT CHILWELL OLYMPIA, CHILWELL, NOTTINGHAM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tony Donaldson, John Dalton, John Palmer, Hilary Palmer, Pauline Olivant, David Olivant, Keith Streb, Bob Alderson, Peter Bourne, John Woodall, Eric Gebbett, Val Gebbett, Janet Evans, Gill Hatfield, Bob Hatfield, Jim Clarke, Chris Hodkinson, Hilary Hodkinson, Peter Hubberstey, Ray Barnes, Helen O'Neil, Mick Lucking, Catherine Hughes, Richard Torr, Jad Dziadosz

MEMBERS PRESENT BUT NOT ENTITLED TO VOTE

Sarah O'Neil, Alison O'Neil

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following members: Alan Gould, Ros Bourne, Nick Evans, Hazel Rice, Tony Buckland, Margaret Buckland, Bert Bradshaw, Dave Cooke, Mike O'Neil, Stephen Wright

2. MINUTES OF THE 1998 AGM

The minutes of the 1998 AGM were accepted.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None arose

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

First things first. If anybody is running a sweepstake on how long I'm going to take over this speech then the smart money is on about 10 minutes. If anybody wants to split their winnings then I can either waffle or simply cut to the chase. Bonus points if you spotted the reminder about the club championships on 14th November at Milford and Brocton - get your entries in before the weekend. Things I'm going to talk about include the activities of the Club, O-zone work and training.

Activities

The club has been very active over the past 12 months both in competitive orienteering and also in organising and planning events. I don't intend to go into all the details about the things we've been involved with as I've asked the committee to summarise their particular areas of responsibility. Also I'm sure many of you are already aware of these. The running-thru'-the-woods bit first; As a club we are fortunate to have a large and outstanding junior membership. This combined with the ceaseless efforts of coaches including Hilary Palmer, Eddie Nicholson, Pauline Olivant and many others has led to the club being the number one performing club in junior competitions this year. Without wishing to single out anyone in particular - they know who they are The juniors have picked up numerous individual titles in the JK, the British Championships, The British Night Championships and have also featured highly when representing both the East Midlands and their respective countries. When acting as a team the club's junior section has been in awesome form in collecting major relay event titles including the sub 48 years relay at the JK, the M14 and M18 relays at the British and both the main and handicap titles at the Peter Palmer Relays.

It's not all about the younger members however. Not wishing to be out done, the senior members have collected individual titles at the JK and the British Champs. A trawl of the ranking lists also reveals 3 top 10 places for club members (and one top place - Hilary Palmer in W50). If the search is widened to top 20 places the number quadruples.

The other primary event we do as a club is the CompassSport cup. Janet will talk about that I'm sure in her summing up of the year.

I feel that I must mention the Scottish 6 days as so many members competed in this event. I can only encourage you to try it if you haven't been before. Top quality terrain, breathtaking scenery, great company and the ability to get lost like you've never been lost before. I overheard one competitor describing an 'off the map' excursion and looking to relocate off the 'o' of 'Plodda' written at the top of the map.

Being in an orienteering club is not only about competition - the other side of the coin is what we do as a club to serve the sport. In some regards we surpass even our competitive achievements in this regard. In approximate terms in the last 12 months we've put on 8 mainstream events including a badge and shorttrace, 9 summer league events and 4 o-zone events. This doesn't include the coaching and 'fun' events.

One event which sticks in my mind was the double kiss weekend of two short races and a badge event organised by Ray Barnes which by overwhelming consent was a superb weekend thanks in no small part to the professional approach all those involved brought to the weekend.

The coming season will be at least as busy as the last. We have a number of events galloping towards us which will place demands on our resources of people willing to assist at these events. In this regard we need to be very professional in our approach to events to ensure that every opportunity for things to go wrong has been examined as I believe that people don't want the stress of fixing problems on the day. People will be happier to help at events which still enable them to enjoy a run if they wish. The converse is also probably true I fear.

Between now and this time next year we will have planned and organised around 10 open events including a short race series and a similar number of summer league and o-zone events. These events are necessary in order that we gain income to fund mapping, equipment, junior development... the list goes on.

Time will tell if we've bitten off more than we can comfortably chew in terms of event scheduling.

At this time next year we will be about to hold the British Schools Score championships at Blidworth. This will be another opportunity for NOC to show what it can do.

O - Zone Work

I've mentioned o-zones a couple of times so far and I'd like to spend a few minutes giving an overview of the project.

Orienteering, we all know is a fantastic sport combining the sheer enjoyment of being out in beautiful countryside, the mental challenge and the opportunity to run yourself ragged just for the hell of it. Despite these 'benefits' the membership is dwindling and has been for a number of years. NOC is not immune to this phenomenon and we have seen a reduction in NOC membership of 25% in recent years.

The age profile of the sport is shifting - the average age is getting older - look at the number of M45's currently competing. When I started orienteering in 1992 the peak was in the M40's. How

many M21's and W21's are there in NOC - I would estimate less than 10 at the current time. Any way enough moaning -what are we trying to do about it....

NOC was chosen to be one of 5 o-zones in the country whereby the aim was to widen the participation of young people in orienteering. We chose the Mansfield and Ashfield area as our target with the aim of doubling the number of regular orienteers from that area.

To do this requires resources so the club applied for and was awarded a grant of £4,100 from the National Lottery to fund mapping, permanent courses, laying on introductory events and generally running the project. The club members principally involved in this work are Ray Barnes, Pauline Olivant, Keith Streb and myself however help is always needed so please get in touch with one of us if you feel you would like to participate. I believe the future of the sport depends on initiatives like this. So far we've laid on 4 introductory events which have been very well received and hopefully will lead to a few people taking up the sport. If you want any more details please ask any of the people involved.

On the subject of recruitment

We are always looking for people to join the club therefore I'm very keen to introduce a way of assisting new members to come along to events to get a feel for the sport and hopefully become enthused to stay and become involved. It's a long process and I would ask people to make the time to talk to new members and to try to help them into the sport as far as possible. Get your friends along to an O-zone event or a colour coded event - in one of the pleasant areas. Make time to shadow them around their first couple of courses. In this way we might encourage people into the sport and hopefully reverse the decline.

I'm almost at the end of my presentation now but I'd like to mention the training night starting next Tuesday from here. The training format is very much up to you but I'd like to think that the first couple of runs will be familiarisation exercises but as we progress I'd like to perhaps start a street orienteering league - with a handicapping system, some hashing and also some other orienteering type exercises to break up the road work that is a necessary evil in winter. Be ready to run at 7pm.

And Finally...

On a personal note, I've now been in the job a year which has involved a very steep learning curve on my part and which doesn't seem to be getting any shallower as time goes by. Despite orienteering for seven years this is the first committee post I've held so I hope that I'm doing OK. I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the committee and all the other people who continue to offer help and advice.

As an advertisement for Nottinghamshire Orienteering Club, the plus points of this job are:

- ┆ I have a very competent team to keep things running smoothly despite my interference.
- ┆ I feel very proud to be Chair of Nottinghamshire Orienteering Club.
- ┆ And last but not least my orienteering keeps getting better and better.

Thank you very much. Tony Donaldson

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer presented her report. The club had made a small surplus of £110 this year. O zone fund to be spent by 17 December, but some hope of extension. Income from events is down due to a drop in attendance and higher BOF levy. We need more income from events. The increase in reserves is due to the O zone grant. The accounts were accepted.

6. MAPPING REPORT

See separate sheet.

Thanks to Derek Mill and Bob Alderson for revising maps, and to Dave Cooke, who offered to step into the mapping co-ordinators role, but I am not having to step down.

7. TEAM MANAGER' REPORT

This has been my third year of Team Manager, and the job has seemed considerably easier this year for 3 reasons. Firstly I wasn't editing Black and Green - many thanks to Ray for taking over, secondly the revised CompassSport Cup competition with pre-scheduled dates and venues made life a lot easier and eased the pressure on my phone bill, and lastly by now I knew what I was doing. Again from a club point of view, the highlight has to be making the CompassSport Cup final for the third consecutive year. We easily won the first round at Brandon with a surprisingly good performance from LEI putting them into second place.

The final at Burghfield Common was always going to be tough featuring as it was SYO, WCH, TVOC, SLOW and MDOC. My predictions were for an MDOC victory with us vying with SYO for a tightly fought second place. The new rules threw up some surprises with WCH coming out clear victors over SYO and SLOW who tied for second, by a margin of 22 points. We tied with TVOC for equal fourth place on 158 point, 47 points behind WCH. A much weakened MDOC side (why didn't they bother) trailed in last. Out of interest the draw has been made for 2000 and features a 7 way first leg tie with NOC, WCH, DVO, LEI, NOR, WAOC, and OD. We'll need to pull out all the stops to beat WCH who will be keen to show that this year's victory wasn't a fluke. We all need 19 March in our diaries, more details from my successor.

Other competitions include the Footpath Relay, this year hosted by Hallamshire Harriers. A tough competition this year with 12 teams and only one weakened NOC team. We put on a creditable performance coming 5th overall and first "O" club. The competition was won by Hallamshire beating the usual winners Holme Pierrepont into a disgruntled second place. I think this proves that as the membership gets older we can't compete on out and out running terms with the running clubs. NOC also had three teams in this year's Harvester. A junior team, a senior team and a ladies team. The ladies team performed admirably to finish an excellent 6th position.

I haven't mentioned junior performances - leaving that to Chris in his junior report, so not an awful lot to report from the traditional relays of BOC and JK. The highest place non junior team was the W45 team at BOC who came third - well done to Hilary Palmer, Judy Pittson and Jane Booker. As I bow out after the interesting and enjoyable years as team manager I wish good luck to my successor.

8. JUNIOR REP'S REPORT

During the last year, the juniors have continued to build on their success of previous years. There have been too many individual successes during the past year to name individually, but I might mention that no less than 6 of our juniors represented their countries at the Home Internationals last weekend. In particular Richard Robinson and Helen Palmer have been rewarded for their efforts through membership of the British Squad.

Our results in the team competitions have been especially pleasing. Last December we came second in the National Junior Club Championships, just 4 points behind Walton Chasers. During the spring we had several notable relay successes, like the British Championships, where we won both of the junior men's classes.

A few weeks ago, at the Harvester, we came within 11 maps length of a third successive victory - but perhaps the less said about that the better.

Our best results were at the Peter Palmer Relays, where we won convincingly; the second team came 4th, winning the handicap competition.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people in the club who have done so much to help the juniors, and without whom all this would have been impossible.

I have greatly enjoyed the experience of working on the committee. It has been very rewarding to see how the club works and I would certainly feel less reluctant if I was volunteered to help in the future.

I would like to finish by introducing my successor, who will be Stephen Wright - I wish him a very good time ahead. Thank you

9. ELECTION OF AUDITOR

Janet Calvert has agreed to do it again.

10. MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 1999

No club membership fee for the following year.

11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

As all posts had a single nominee they were accepted without a vote. The committee for 1999 is:

Chair	Anthony Donaldson
Secretary	Helen O'Neil
Treasurer	Gill Hatfield
Coaching Co-ordinator	Eddie Nicholson
Mapping Co-ordinator	Keith Streb
EMOA Rep & B & G Ed.	Ray Barnes
Fixtures Secretary	Richard Torr
Team Manager	Catherine Hughes

12. LIFE MEMBERS

Eric and Val Gebbett were nominated for life membership of the club,, they were proposed by Keith Streb and seconded by Mick Lucking.

13. FIXTURES SECRETARY

To recap 1998/9, there were 10 events (+9 summer events) 1 C3 (Budby), 3 C4, 1 C5, 2 N5, 1 O5 (short race), 1 R5 and the Christmas event.

For 1999/2000 there are 13 planned - 3 C4, 4 C5 (including 3 O zones), 2 N 5, 2 O5 (short races 29/30 January) 1 R5 and the Christmas event together with various coaching and training activities. It is a healthy programme -last year and this) with good attendances and events well enjoyed thanks to all the hard work put in by enthusiastic planners/controllers/organisers and helpers. You can't put events on without the support of the members.

We have a hard core of enthusiastic helpers and organisers - their able efforts are much appreciated by all BUT we face a problem - if we are going to continue putting on quality events in the numbers to date, we need to increase the number of helpers -particularly organiser - we are in danger of overloading the faithful few.

Any suggestions as to how we can do this will be gratefully received and on that note of caution back to Tony.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bits and pieces form events, etc would be welcome. Write up on events would be of interest (with the right slant). Clumber Workshop (same day as the NE in November) -how to do it etc (with lunch). Would like volunteers to help out.

The meeting closed at 8.42 p.m..