

North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held at Down Hatherley Village Hall on 21st October 2024

Present

Committee: Ian Jones (Chair), Alan Pucill, Ginny Hudson, Ian Phillips, John Fallows, Judith Taylor, Paul Taunton, Rhiannon Fadeyibi, Vanessa Lawson

Members: Andy Creber, Christophe Pige, Colette du Toit, Gary Wakerley, Maggie Jones, Ros Taunton, Rosie Taylor, Steve Williams

1. Apologies: Alan Brown, Alex Lyne, Andy Stott, Carol Farrington, Carol Stewart, Don Cload, Doug Wilson, Greg Best, Hils Nicholls, Ian Prowse, James Askew, James Wilkinson, Jess Miklausic, Joe Parkinson, John Miklausic, Martin May, Mike Farrington, Neil Cameron, Pat Macleod, Paul Bryce, Rob Taylor, Rodney Archard, Suzanne Harding, Ted Cripps, Tom Birthwright, Tom Cochrane, Tom Mills
2. Minutes of previous AGM (9th October 2023) were approved.
3. Notices: -
 - a. Training events: In addition to Chestnut Hill and Green Bottom we now have permission from SBOC to plan MapRun skills training on Merthyr Mawr. The armchair planning is underway and once parking and course checks are done it will be made available to club members.
 - b. The club is funding a First Aid certification course on 15th December 2024 at Highnam Community Centre. An email with details will be sent to all members following the AGM. Six places are still available. Please let the Secretary know if you are interested.
4. Committee Reports (posted on the NGOC website)
 - a. Chair:
 - i. Chair congratulated the Junior squad on triumphing in both the Yvette Baker Shield and the British Sprint Relay competitions.
 - ii. The String course has been successfully re-introduced at events using the simplified process implemented by Maggie Jones.
 - iii. Unfortunately, development opportunities for senior members remain aspirational but we are working to address this. The club is sponsoring three members to train as coaches during the coming year.
 - b. Captain:
 - i. The qualifying round for CompassSport Cup (CSC) is on 23rd February 2025 (Stapeley & Rorrington, Croydon Hill, Long Valley North). **Captain to canvass the members about their preferred venue.**

- c. Treasurer
 - i. Money has been earmarked for a replacement club printer. Work continues to identify a model that could be approved by British Orienteering to print Level B event standard maps.
 - ii. The club continues to reinvest income into the club by purchasing new equipment, funding training courses (first aid, coaching) and providing grants to juniors selected for orienteering training camps.
 - d. Membership
 - i. Slight drop in Seniors but increase in Juniors. Numbers generally stable.
 - e. Mapping
 - i. Mapping Officer reiterated that the final version of event maps needs to be submitted for printing no later than 10 days before the event.
 - f. Fixtures.
 - i. Suggestion from the floor about feasibility of recruiting planners first and going with their event location choice rather than selecting locations then trying to find planners for those areas. Explanation that we are constrained by Forestry England (FE) restrictions applicable to our areas at certain times of year, so it is better to decide the venue first to fit around FE embargoes.
 - ii. Observation from the floor that we have held mainly Local (Level D) events this year which are not eligible for BOF Ranking Points. It would be good to have more Regional (Level C) events which would attract more competitors and raise the profile of the club. It was noted that many of our areas are not suitable for parking large numbers of vehicles. There is often poor access for the delivery of portable toilets, the provision of which is mandatory for Level C and above events.
 - g. Equipment. Nothing to add.
 - h. Welfare. Nothing to add.
 - i. Volunteers
 - i. Discussion about best way to encourage more members to volunteer to help at events and augment the small pool of regular helpers. New members are alerted to volunteering opportunities in their welcome letter, and there is detailed information about the various volunteer roles on the NGOC website. It was noted that many members have commitments which mean they cannot volunteer at orienteering events.
 - j. Communications & Publicity. Nothing to add.
 - k. Newsletter. We encourage members to submit items for LEGEND. The more the merrier!
5. Membership fees – **no change proposed.**
- a. Those present voted unanimously to maintain the NGOC Annual Membership Fee at £1.00

6. Event entry fees

- a. Local & League event entry fees. **No change proposed.** Those present **REJECTED** this proposal. Counter proposal of raising senior entry fee from £7.00 to £8.00 while keeping the junior fee at £3.00 and family fee at £16.00 was **ACCEPTED.** [*See Any Other Business item 11.a for background*].
- b. Maprun entry fees. Senior non-members mostly attend maprun rather than local & league events. To offset the increased BOF levy for senior non-members, **Treasurer recommended maprun fees should be increased to £6.00 for senior non-members and remain at £5.00 for senior members. ACCEPTED.**
- c. Big events (Level C and higher) entry fees. **No change proposed** i.e. entry fees set according to costs on an event-by-event basis. **ACCEPTED.**

7. Election of Committee

- a. The members thanked Ian Phillips (outgoing Mapping Officer), Tom Cochrane (outgoing Comms & Publicity Officer) and Steve Lee (outgoing additional voting member) for their hard work.
- b. Existing committee members wishing to continue in their roles were re-elected unopposed.
- c. Comms & Publicity Officer: Rosie Taylor proposed by Gary Wakerley; seconded by Vanessa Lawson. **ACCEPTED**
- d. Additional Voting Member without portfolio: Andy Creber proposed by Gary Wakerley; seconded by Ian Phillips. **ACCEPTED**
- e. Mapping Officer: Pat Macleod (temporary until a successor for Ian is found) proposed by Ian Jones; seconded by Gary Wakerley. **ACCEPTED.**
- f. Club Coach: No nominations received. Post remains **VACANT.**
- g. Development Officer: No nominations received. Post remains **VACANT.**

8. Submitted proposals

- a. Make Welfare Officer a Principal Officer to align with BOF structure and to adopt BOF nomenclature. This is a change to the constitution and requires at least 80% of valid votes cast to be in favour of the proposed change. Those present voted unanimously in favour. **ACCEPTED.**
- b. Extending maprun technology to normal local events. Proposed as it would remove most of the overheads in organising an event, especially around putting out and collecting in controls. Several points were raised: -
 - i. Quality of mobile signal in the forest might impact viability
 - ii. Not every competitor has a suitable device to use maprun
 - iii. BOF event rules currently do not recognise maprun technology and require a physical marker for controls.
 - iv. It was recognised that the “Check sites” feature on maprun is very helpful in collecting in physical controls after an event.
 - v. It was felt that maprun would be excellent for supporting training and development events.

- vi. **The proposer agreed to trial an event using maprun technology. In the meantime, Chair agreed to contact BOF and determine their direction of travel regarding use of maprun technology.**
 - c. All committee meetings should be held face-to-face. The proposer asked to **WITHDRAW** the proposal as it was recognised that some committee members are not able to regularly attend in-person meetings due to distance to travel, and work commitments. This notwithstanding, the committee agreed to hold a minimum of one committee meeting a year in person as there are many benefits to be derived from personal interaction.
- 9. Developing coaching for NGOC
 - a. Proposal to offer an “Off-Yellow” course to juniors to help them transition from Yellow to Orange. Evidence shows that many juniors move before they are ready and are discouraged because their performance often drops at the higher level. The “Off-Yellow” course would introduce them in a non-competitive environment to the more technical standards at the next level. It was noted that it is often challenging to plan Yellow courses at events, and it could prove difficult to find enough controls from other courses that were sited near enough to the Yellow course to be used. **Maggie agreed to work with planners to test the concept on a couple of forthcoming events.**
 - b. The coaching and development sub-group is preparing a paper on holding a coaching weekend next summer. The weekend would be suitable for all members. **When completed, the proposal paper will be presented to the committee for consideration.**
- 10. Terry Bradstock Trophy (TBT)
 - a. This is a year-long competition intended to encourage NGOC members to go outside the club’s orienteering area to attend higher level events.
 - b. John Fallows reported the results in reverse order: -
 - i. 3rd place – Ginny Hudson
 - ii. 2nd place – Seth Lawson
 - iii. 1st place – Vanessa Lawson
 - c. **The committee will decide the 2025 qualifying events at their next meeting.**
- 11. Any other business
 - a. Toilets at local and league events (Level D). **It was agreed that toilets should be provided at Level D events where possible.** It was recognised that this would incur additional costs (hire and insurance). It was therefore proposed that the senior entry fees for Level D events should be increased. [*See Event Entry Fees item 6.a*]. **Andy Creber volunteered to liaise with Level D event planners about organising portable toilets.**
 - b. Club kit: the stock of older design orienteering outfits has been donated to the SWJOS (South-West Junior Orienteering Squad) Shop.
 - c. Treasurer thanked Vanessa Lawson for auditing the NGOC accounts.
- 12. Meeting closed at 22:00.