

North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club

AGM 21st October 2024

REPORTS

Chair's Report NGOC AGM 2024

Welcome! Please enjoy the buffet and socialising with fellow club members outside of the usual event car park or assembly environment.

Alongside the buffet and socialising, I hope that you get something out of the AGM itself, either learning more about the club's activities or by contributing to the discussions. The committee members have prepared a comprehensive set of reports, so I won't repeat what they have said. It suffices to say that during the last year the membership, number of events held, successes in club and junior competitions and bank balance have all remained excellent.

The Caddihoe Chase and accompanying Veterans Home International together with Day 1 of Croeso 2024 demonstrated to the orienteering community what a strong club we are. These were major events but the efficient organisation and planning, helped by an army of volunteers, mostly from NGOC but also a few from other clubs, delivered top-class events.

But as well as the successes, there are continuing challenges, some of which have not moved on from last year:

- Whilst we have made progress on some areas of orienteering development, notably with our junior squad and string courses for the very smallest, we have no Licensed Coaches and have seen little coaching for other club members. Three club members have, however, recently volunteered to attend BOF coaching courses and we may benefit from this in the coming year.
- Age profile of the club: We are always looking for younger organisers and planners prepared to take on Local events and then, as they become more experienced, move up to bigger events in the future. There have been various discussions by the Committee about how we provide support, which will hopefully continue the momentum seen last year.
- Land access costs and restrictions: The National agreement between British Orienteering and Forestry England (FE) expired in 2023 and this year has seen a degree of uncertainty as new terms are being arranged. There might be some benefit for very small or informal events, but it looks like larger events will have to pay higher fees. At the same time, we are seeing FE designate large areas for wetland creation, beaver habitat and other restrictions.

My first year as Chair seems to have flown by, it hardly seems like 12 months since I was looking around at the last AGM to see who else might volunteer for the post. I am always happy to receive feedback, either about something you would like me to start or stop doing, or something you think the Committee should be picking up.

Ian Philips will be stepping down as our mapping officer after many years of getting our event maps ready in time, occasionally against some remarkably short deadlines, and our thanks go to him. At the same time, Greg Best is keen to share some of the Fixtures and Permissions workload. Greg undertakes a great deal of hugely valuable work to ensure we have a full calendar of events and we

would very much like to have someone else to support this activity. If you would like to find out more about either post, please don't hesitate to ask!

Thanks to all members for continuing to support the club,

Ian Jones - 14 October 2023

Captain's Report NGOC AGM 2024

IN ROLE:

Tasks Completed

- The CompassSport Cup Heat took place in February, sadly due to a depleted team we did not advance to the Final.
- JK Relays - we had three teams (one 210+, one Ad Hoc and a W48-).
- British Relays - we did not enter any teams for this event. The distance to travel to Whitby meant only 9 NGOC members travelled for the individual event but they were not available today.
- Communicating with parents of juniors has been developed by setting up a NGOC Juniors Parents WhatsApp group.
- Ongoing liaison with BOK junior coordinator to continue to build links between the juniors in team competitions, where possible, and also to take advantage of any local coaching opportunities.
- Yvette Baker heat junior team organised and NGOC advanced to the final of the Yvette Baker Shield competition which they WON!
- One junior and three senior teams (Open, 40+ and 55+) entered for the British Sprint Relays on 22 June. The junior 12- team WON!
- It was agreed with the junior parents that the Peter Palmer relays were too far away to enter a team on 7 September (Cockermouth).

NOT IN ROLE:

Other Tasks Completed

- Tutshill Maprun in May was successful with 62 entries plus parents accompanying the 10 juniors. Chepstow Harriers came out in force and had a great time
- Liaison with Heather Bovill about her taking on the SWOA badges for juniors, she is happy to do this.
- Flaxley league in October – planned with Seth.
- Signed up for a coaching course which will start on 31 October
- Communicating with BOF about a Controller's course.
- Written 2 or 3 articles for Legend.
- **Signed up to plan Danby Lodge league with Seth in 2025**

Vanessa Lawson – October 2024

Treasurer's Report NGOC AGM 2024

We ended this financial year over £7,000 better off than at the same time last year. The major part of this came from the VHI/Caddihoe weekend which made a surplus of around £5,000. We have budgeted for the purchase of a new printer but have not yet found a suitable model. Assuming we go ahead this is likely to cost a few thousand pounds. Since 1st September we have purchased two new laptops and battery power supplies costing just over £1,000 in total.

In 2024 we kept entry and membership fees at the same level as the previous year and despite increased levies, our regular events have continued to make a small surplus. Since September 2024 Forestry England have increased their fees and now take 20% of the gross entry income from the event (i.e. before Fabian fees are deducted and levies are paid). They also now require an up-front payment of £79 per event just to process the application(!), so this will squeeze margins further. British Orienteering levies will also rise in 2025.

Against this we can expect to receive a significant sum from our day at Croeso and our reserves are healthy.

I'm happy to keep membership fees at £1. It is in our best interests to increase membership as we now pay quite a heavy levy for senior non-members.

The non-member levy mostly affects Mapruns as the number of non-members at league events is very low. Mapruns do continue to make a (very) small surplus, even when map printing costs and donations to the Maprun organisation are taken into account. However, I think it would be good to charge non-members £6 (while keeping the fee for members to £5) to reflect our increased costs and perhaps encourage more people to join. It has been suggested that this is presented as a general increase to £6 with a £1 discount for members.

We have significant reserves and I feel we should be spending this money on orienteering rather than sitting on it. I therefore recommend that for league events we retain the same charges as this year.

In summary, my recommendations:

Membership fee: £1 (no change)

League events: no change

Big events: charges according to costs on an event-by-event basis (i.e. no change)

Maprun: £5 for members (no change) £6 non-members (increase of £1)

Additional Notes

- I have included a breakdown of income and expenditure by event, grouped by event type. The figures will be slightly different to those in the main report because the Income and Expenditure Report covers only transactions made within the financial year whereas the Events Report shows only the events which took place within the year, along with *all* transactions relating to those events, including those which fell outside the financial year.
- The accounts have been audited. Many thanks to Vanessa for dealing with this so promptly.

Membership Secretary Report NGOC AGM 2024

1. Number of members

As at 4.10.23

Category	Current	Other
Senior	141	3
Junior	22	0
Total	163	3

At 14.10.24

Category	Current	Other
Senior	127	4
Junior	30	
Total	157	4

2. Membership renewals

Membership renewals will be available on the BOF website from November 2024.

At this time, there are no changes to the BOF membership fees.

In summary:

Membership for Seniors		£15.00
Membership for Juniors (under 21)		£5.00
Category for Young Adults		£10.00
Category for Families (2 adults and unlimited children at same address)		£35.00
Part-year membership for NEW members	Pro rata basis, depending on time of year joined	

Ginny Hudson, Membership Secretary

Mapping Report NGOC AGM 2024

Maps printed since September 2024 Committee meeting:

203 x A4 Chairman's Challenge maps = £81.20.

60 off A4 Newnham MapRun maps =£24.60.

30 off A4 Hereford NE MapRun maps = £12.30.

205 x A4 Mallards Pike maps and 52 sheets of CD's = £83.56.

219 x A4 Flaxley maps and 68 sheets of CD's. = £89.64.

30 off A4 Gloucester MapRun maps = £12.30.

100 x A4 blank sheets to Pat = £19.00.

***Cyan toner replaced.**

***Black toner replaced.**

***2 off yellow toner cartridges received 23/09/24 at a cost of £119.04.**

***Transfer roller replaced 20/09/24 at £111.94**

In Stock – In the order of 1500 sheets of A4 and 200 sheets of A3 Pretex.

Printing Cost – Since last Committee Meeting report = £553.58.

Current prices:

Pretex Paper is: A3 - 27p, A4 - 19p per sheet.

Ink is: No longer under contract but was - Colour 14.088p, Black 1.524p.

Costs approx - 40p per A4 map, 48p per A3 map and 3p per CD sheet on reused paper.

Usually Control Descriptions (CDs) are printed on reused maps so no cost for paper.

Mapping costs since 2023 AGM:

December 2023 - £249.76p

February 2024 - £441.89p

April 2024 - £758.88p

June 2024 - £339.02p

September 2024 - £698.30

October 2024 - £553.58p

Total = £3,041.43p

Ian Phillips

13th October 2024.

Fixture Secretary Report NGOC AGM 2024

By the end of the year, we will have put on an extremely impressive total of 40 events. These were made up of:

- 11 NGOC league events
- 4 Western Night League events
- New Year's Day score event
- An informal summer relay
- A welcome return of the Chair's Challenge with the novel format of an ultra-sprint
- A SWOA League event (which doubled as an NGOC League event)
- A UK Urban League event (which doubled as an NGOC League event)
- The individual day of the Junior Inter-Regional Championships
- 20 Maprun evening score events
- Day 1 of Croeso at Merthyr Mawr

As usual, the NGOC League remains our main focus. It continues to offer a mix of different kinds of event and is very well attended. This year, there was one urban and 10 classic distance terrain events. Unfortunately, the sprint event at Cheltenham College had to be cancelled because of unexpected building work and will be re-scheduled for next year.

There were 2 new brand-new areas used this year. The Chair's Challenge took place amongst the bumps and hollows of Nottingham Hill and the Dowards will be used for the first time next month.

Many of our Maprun score events also take place on new ground with organisers seeking out promising new areas around the county and sometimes quite far beyond, such as at Hereford, Chepstow and Colwall. These are fun and well worth seeking out if you haven't tried one yet.

Access permissions have largely gone relatively smoothly for events this year. We are of course very grateful to the various landowners for permitting us to run through their areas.

The fixtures sub-committee have thrashed out a provisional fixture list for 2025 and there will be a similar number and range of events next year, although we will not be hosting any big national events this time. In addition to various old favourites, there will be just one new area: the re-scheduled sprint at Cheltenham College, which should be fun.

Last and most important of all, huge thanks once again are due to all of the event organisers, planners and controllers who volunteer their time and energy to put on events, without which none of this could happen. There are still quite a few spaces for next year, so please do consider volunteering for one, as we can only continue to put on such a full and wide-ranging calendar if volunteers come forward. New faces are always welcome to have a first go at organising or planning for us. This may at first seem a daunting prospect for the inexperienced, but a mentor will be assigned to help any first-timers.

Greg Best, Fixture Secretary

Equipment Report NGOC AGM 2024

As last year, in general our equipment remains in fairly good order, although we are gradually building up a stock of older stuff which is now largely surplus to requirements, but not particularly straightforward to dispose of, either gaining some value for it by sale, or working out how to dispose of it if it likely has little or no value to anyone. This includes some substantial items such as the generator, the battery pack, and the older laptops, as well as a lot of more prosaic stuff tables, masses of signage, old flasks, and many other bits and pieces which have typically be bought for a specific use at a specific event, but which have never been used since. It may be that an auction or 'fire sale' within the club membership may be a means of disposing of this stuff, although at present it is not really a problem; it just takes up space.

Excluding costs such as SI invoices for control repairs, which go direct to the Treasurer, I have spent around £1600 on equipment in this reporting period, the principal items being:

- a small tent for use at events like relays where the NGOC numbers are small - £100
- Two new laptops - £800
- Two power packs - £340

The remainder includes a wide variety of items such as posts for the Highmeadow permanent course, new flasks for the cafe, additional plastic stakes for Croeso, and numerous consumable items which are mainly for large events, but also support the normal club events.

Tentage

As mentioned above we now have a small pop-up tent which is ideal for small groups heading of to relays or other distant and lightly attended (by NGOC runners) events.

The other tents remain serviceable and sufficient for all but the largest events. However, a pole on one of the older tents was broken in the string winds at Croeso Day 1 and has been replaced with my last spare. It is unclear if I will be able to get any further spares for that tent, and so we may have to cannibalise one to keep the other serviceable.

SI Equipment

No further purchases, but we now have higher repair and battery replacement bills than hitherto when we did our own repairs. These generated some fairly negative feedback from SI when we had to send controls back which we could not repair ourselves, so we now send all controls back to SI for repair.

One noteworthy observation is that one of the new BSF9 units which was stolen from Cleeve Hill in March was found 6 months later by a passing cyclist and ex-NGOC member! It still works, but clearly

has moisture inside and has no display, so will go back to SI for repair in due course.

Computing

We have finally given up on the very slow old laptops that have served us so long and have replaced them with 2 new ones. If anyone has a use for an old and slow HP laptop you are welcome to have one. Otherwise, they will probably go for recycling.

Printers

No progress on replacing the main Xerox 7700 currently operated by Ian Phillips. This plan will be restarted after the AGM. The other printer – the Xerox 6600 – still runs, though primarily only for low level signage, entry slips and so on; the map print quality is poor, and the printer currently has driver problems which further limit what can be produced. However, the ongoing printing costs are very low. The annual support contract with Printerbase is due to end in February 2025 and we need to decide then as to whether we need a second printer if we have upgraded the primary one.

Equipment Officer Succession

I have looked after the club kit for longer than I can recall, but probably 30 years or so. Given my age it would be prudent for the club to think about how we continue to manage our equipment, which is now very extensive, although based on some of my comments above perhaps excessively so.

There are three possibilities for the future management of the kit:

- Pass it all on to one other person – a significant requirement for that being lots of storage space.
- Distribute it amongst several people – possible but adds the challenge of assembling it for events
- Hire a storage facility at some convenient location

We should start to discuss a longer-term plan for managing our equipment, although I am happy to carry on at present for the foreseeable future; it is the unforeseeable that perhaps needs some attention!

Pat Macleod

Safeguarding/Welfare Officer Report NGOC AGM 2024

There have been no safeguarding incidents or concerns during the 12 months since the last AGM.

Club Welfare Officers receive quite regular updates from Peter Brooke, British Orienteering Lead Safeguarding Officer. The most recent update (May 2024) covered the topics listed below:

1. The national network of Sports Welfare Officers (Sport England scheme covering all sports)

Extract from the Active Partnership website:

Following a recent recruitment drive, the Active Partnerships National Organisation (APNO) is pleased to announce that the Sport Welfare Officer (SWO) network now covers every region and major city in England, marking a significant milestone in a programme which seeks to increase welfare capacity and expertise at a local, regional, and national level.

The recruitment process, which began in October 2023, was conducted using a phased approach, and has now resulted in SWOs being fully operational in every region of the country, supporting National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and their local clubs to promote good practice and safer sport for all.

This initiative, set up following the commitments made by Sport England and UK Sport in response to the Whyte Review, has been funded by Sport England through the National Lottery. The SWOs are employed by Active Partnerships across England and are adding capacity and expertise to the existing safeguarding work of NGBs and Active Partnerships. They are connecting those working on welfare and safeguarding locally and promoting good welfare practice and safe sport at a local level, with the aim of creating safer club environments and improved experiences for children, young people, and adults.

As the SWO network continues to establish itself, the work of these officers is expected to greatly enhance the understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures within local clubs and facilitate the sharing of good practices across different sports.

2. Safeguarding checks.

A reminder to anyone supporting training and coaching activities which is likely to need a DBS, to complete the eligibility form and return to BO. At the moment this is only likely to be relevant to our prospective coaches.

3. E-learning and CWO training. BO recommend that CWOs complete the Introducing Safeguarding eLearning module so I will be doing that soon as from 2025 it will be mandatory for CWOs.

4. Toilets and changing in public areas. A request from BO that we include a reminder in event details to competitors not to change in public view, and to change discreetly. Common sense really.

Judith Taylor

13/10/24

Volunteer Coordinator Report NGOC AGM 2024

The Club has held 12 League events in the last 12 months, the Toadsmoor Summer Relays and Chairman's Challenge and were responsible for hosting Day 1 (Merthyr Mawr) of Croeso 2024 and the 2024 Junior Inter Regional Championships at Mallards Pike.

Volunteer requirements varied between the events depending on their scale and complexity. For most league events some 15-20 volunteers are needed and without exception all helper roles were filled for each event without too much cajoling.

However, those roles were filled by a small and regular cohort of club members. It is disappointing therefore that the pool of volunteers remains limited, and the half price reduction on the entry fee, does not appear enough to attract a wider selection of the membership to offer event help.

At Croeso 2024 the volunteer requirements were much greater, and help was sought from participants at the event from other clubs, all of which was ably coordinated by Gary Wakerley.

Ian Prowse – October 2024

Communications & Publicity Officer Report NGOC AGM 2024

No report submitted

Newsletter Editor Report NGOC AGM 2024

Usual four issues of LEGEND produced as well as a special edition in April commemorating Chris Morris. Thanks to everyone who contributed this last year – keep the articles, cuttings and snippets of information coming!

Alan Brown
