

North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held at Down Hatherley Village Hall – 19.45hrs on 9th October 2023

Present

Committee: Paul Taunton (Chair), Alan Pucill, Ginny Hudson, Greg Best, John Fallows, Judith Taylor, Pat Macleod, Rhiannon Fadeyibi

Members: Andy Stott, Doug Wilson, Hils Nicholls, Hugh Garai, Ian Jones, Maggie Jones, Margaret Garai, Ros Taunton, Steve Williams, Tom Birthwright, Tom Mills

Online: Ian Prowse, Suzanne Harding, Vanessa Lawson

1. Apologies: Alan Brown, Alan Stringer, Andy Pedder, Ashleigh Denman, Carol Stewart, Colette du Toit, Dave Andrews, Gary Wakerley, Gill James, Ian Phillips, James Askew, Joe Parkinson, John Shea, Kim Liggett, Neil Cameron, Peter Maloney, Richard Cronin, Robert Finch, Rob Taylor, Rodney Archard, Rosie Taylor, Rosie Watkins, Simon Denman, Tom Cochrane
2. Minutes of previous AGM, 10th October 2022 were approved. Matters arising: -
 - a. The committee action to expand the number of events that count towards the Terry Bradstock Trophy (TBT) has been completed.
 - b. The incoming captain completed her action to email members about which venue NGOC should choose for its CompassSport Cup heat in 2023.
 - c. The action to investigate club socials on Zoom was thought to be no longer required now that we can hold in-person meetings. The action was closed.
 - d. Final committee meeting of 2022 was held at Down Hatherley Village Hall.
3. Committee Reports (posted on the NGOC website)
 - a. Chair:
 - i. Chair reported a good year for NGOC. The successful running of a national orienteering weekend like the Caddihoe Chase/Veterans Home International (VHI) shows NGOC is a club that can put on top-class events thanks to strong support from members.
 - ii. However, Chair noted that the posts of Club Coach and Development Officer remain vacant.
 - iii. Chair would like to encourage younger members to take on event planning and organising roles.
 - iv. Chair noted that the three-year agreement between BOF and Forestry England (FE) expired September 2023. It is unclear what impact the

new agreement will have but it may necessitate an increase in event entry fees.

- b. Captain:
 - i. Suzanne confirmed that NGOC will be eligible to compete in the Yvette Baker Shield competition for small clubs as we currently have 22 Juniors. Although the maximum number of Juniors for a club to be eligible for the Shield competition may vary each year, the qualifying number will not be less than 25 Juniors (Competition Rule L, para 2.1.6)
 - c. Membership
 - i. Ginny clarified that “Other” in the membership figures refers to full members of other clubs who have joined NGOC as a second club.
 - ii. Ginny confirmed that NGOC qualifies to compete in the CompassSport Cup for “large” clubs, rather than the CompassSport Trophy for “small” clubs.
 - d. Mapping
 - i. The Treasurer highlighted that the club printer is obsolescent and the current support contract (which includes consumables, spare parts and labour) will no longer be available. We will need to decide whether to replace it now or keep it going until it dies. A new printer will cost about £1000. The committee is waiting for new proposals from the printer supplier before deciding. Chair noted that for small quantities BML Print charge £0.65 per map, compared to £0.32 shown in Ian’s report, so having our own printer is both a cost and a convenience benefit.
 - ii. It was noted that maps have been submitted to the Mapping Officer for printing late in the day. **Chair recommended that the Mapping Officer works with event planners to set the printing date 2 weeks before the event.**
 - e. Fixtures. Nothing to add.
 - f. Equipment. Nothing to add.
 - g. Welfare
 - i. BOF has lots of general information on safeguarding on its website.
 - ii. Chair noted that NGOC does not include the Welfare/Safeguarding Officer in its list of principal officers, while BOF now does. We will need to change the club’s constitution to align with BOF. **This action is held over to the 2024 AGM.**
 - h. Volunteers. Nothing to add.
 - i. Communications & Publicity. Nothing to add.
 - j. Newsletter. Nothing to add.
4. Treasurer’s report and accounts
- a. The profit from NGOC organising JK Day 2 has been reinvested in buying new equipment for the club, such as new tents, and replacing failed SI units. The club shows a deficit this year, but the expected income from the Caddihoe/VHI weekend will offset this. **The Treasurer recommends keeping NGOC membership fees unchanged for 2024.**

- b. The Treasurer noted that the new BOF event levies may mean an increase in 2025 membership fees.
- 5. Membership fees 2024 – **no change proposed.**
 - a. Those present voted unanimously to leave the NGOC Annual Membership Fee at £1.00
- 6. Local & League event entry fees – **no change proposed.**
 - a. Those present voted unanimously to leave the local and league event entry fees unchanged, although this may need to be reassessed dependent on the new FE agreement.
- 7. Terry Bradstock Trophy (TBT)
 - a. This is a competition intended to encourage NGOC members to go outside the club's orienteering area to attend higher level events.
 - b. More events were included this year, and runners on the short courses now get points. (For fairness, the calculation is based upon awarding 1000 points for the winner of the Long course but only 700 points for the winner of the Short course). These changes have meant more members being in contention for the trophy.
 - c. John Fallows reported the results in reverse order: -
 - i. 3rd place – Ginny Hudson
 - ii. 2nd place – Vanessa Lawson
 - iii. 1st place – Andy Creber
 - d. **The committee will decide the 2024 qualifying events at their next meeting.**
- 8. Election of Officers
 - a. The members thanked Paul Taunton (outgoing Chair) and Suzanne Harding (outgoing Club Captain) for their hard work.
 - b. Existing committee members wishing to continue in their roles were re-elected unopposed.
 - c. Chair: Ian Jones proposed by Paul Taunton; seconded by Pat Macleod. **ACCEPTED**
 - d. Captain: Vanessa Lawson proposed by Paul Taunton; seconded by Alan Pucill. **ACCEPTED**
 - e. Additional Voting Member without portfolio: Paul Taunton proposed by Ian Phillips; seconded by Alan Pucill. **ACCEPTED.**
 - f. Club Coach: Maggie Jones is prepared to offer coaching on a best endeavours basis but notes she is not a qualified coach. Therefore, post remains **VACANT.**
 - g. Development Officer: No nominations received. Post remains **VACANT.**
 - h. Doug Wilson asked how coaching and development would be taken forward as these were key roles in any orienteering club. Main points of discussion: -
 - i. The club has no-one who is qualified/licensed to coach.
 - ii. Separate coaching/training events would need to be registered with BOF for insurance and would attract levies.
 - iii. However, perhaps an event planner might include exercises for inexperienced orienteers to try before the main event. This would be covered by insurance.

- iv. The String Course is a good introduction to orienteering for very young people; however, NGOC has not offered string courses for a while (apart from at the Caddihoe Chase/VHI weekend). **Chair recommended that the volunteer coordinator add string course planner/organiser to the list of roles needed at events.**
 - v. Vanessa Lawson suggested there might be opportunities for NGOC Juniors to join Welsh regional junior squad training events run by Mark Saunders.
 - vi. **Maggie Jones and Doug Wilson to continue the discussion offline.**
 - vii. **Pat Macleod to speak to James Askew again about his proposal for a Junior Representative on the committee.**
9. Any other business
- a. Venue of qualifying round for CompassSport Cup (CSC) in 2024 (Known venues WMOA Cannock 75 miles, SWOA Ringwood 100 miles, SEOA Esher 110 miles).
 - i. **The majority prefers Cannock Chase**, dependent on the location of the WOA heat which is not yet known, but may be closer.
 - b. Carol Stewart is stepping down from managing the club merchandise and running the NGOC Café. Many thanks for her hard work over the years.
 - i. Paul and Ros Taunton will take over managing the club merchandise.
 - ii. Hils Nicholls may possibly take on running the NGOC Café.
 - c. Andy Stott asked how the NGOC Car Sharing WhatsApp group was doing. Pat replied that at first there was no significant use but it is starting to pick up.
 - d. Following the plethora of competitors who were unfortunately stung during the Caddihoe Chase/VHI weekend, Tom Mills shared his experience of adverse reactions to stings – what the symptoms are and how to treat the more serious cases. **Chair asked Tom to liaise with Ellen Starling and write an article for Legend newsletter to spread the message widely in the club.**
10. Meeting closed at 21:17.