



Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Leicestershire Orienteering Club held on Monday 24th October 2022 at the Glenfield Parish Rooms, Stamford St., Glenfield, LE3 8DL

Present:

Andy Portsmouth, Simon Ford, Steve Chafer, Roger Phillips, Chris Phillips, Ursula Williamson, Alastair Paterson, Maureen Webb, Kevin Gallagher, Laurie Fluck, Bob Haskins, Alan West, Wendy West, Chris Bosley, David Cladingboel, Jane Dring-Morris, Roger Edwards, Simon Starkey, Peter Leake, Ernie Williams, Libby Barber

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence:
 - Iain Phillips, Peter Chick, Roy Denney, John Marriott.
2. Declaration of membership numbers:
 - Junior: 18, Senior: 104, Correspondent: 4. Total voting membership: 126.
3. Approval of minutes of the AGM held on Monday 25th October 2021 were agreed to be a true record.
4. Matters arising from the minutes:
 - No matters arising.
5. Chairman's Report on the past year:
 - see attached report "Chairman's Statement 2022 AGM".
6. Treasurer's report and Budget for coming year:
 - The Treasurer noted that we have £16,000 a rise of £1,000 on the previous year.
 - The Treasurer noted that the accounts were now with the independent financial examiner, but have yet to be approved by them.
 - The Treasurer noted that gift aid scheme is still producing a sizeable return.
 - Bob Haskins asked about donations related to events with regards to the accounts.
 - The Treasurer noted that this was related to the gift aid scheme.
 - Roger Edwards asked about club membership fees set in 2021 for 2022/2023.
 - The Treasurer noted that the committee had revised the membership fees from the 2021 AGM to be £0 for senior and junior club membership for 2023.

7. Independent Financial Examiner's report:
 - The accounts have yet to be approved by the Independent Financial Examiner, Ian Chafer.
 - The Chairman noted that the Independent Financial Examiner only received the accounts very recently.
8. Approval of accounts:
 - The Chairman proposed: Once the accounts have been approved by the independent financial examiner, at the next committee meeting the accounts to be approved by the committee. Approved by majority vote
9. Report of any amendments to the Club Standing Orders.
 - The Chairman reported that standing orders had been updated and approved by the committee in the last 12 months. These were now published on the club website.
 - The Vice-Chair reported that changes were to simplify the standing orders and the appendices had also been updated with input from various stake holders.
10. Club membership fees for 2024:
 - The Treasurer proposed no change to the current membership fee. Approved by majority vote.
 - Roger Edwards noted that the Correspondent member fee does not need to be set a year in advance, as there is no need to inform BOF.
 - Roger Edwards proposed: Correspondent membership be set £0.00. Approved by majority vote.
 - Fees for 2023: Correspondent - £0.00
 - Fees for 2024: Senior - £0.00, Junior - £0.00
11. President's remarks and election of Chairman:
 - see attached report "President's Remarks 2022". Steve Chafer elected as Chair.
12. Chairman's outline of the coming year.
 - see attached report "Chairman's View for 2023"
13. Election of Principal Officers (Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer)
 - Vice Chair: Jane Dring-Morris, approved by majority vote.
 - Secretary: Roger Phillips, approved by majority vote.
 - Treasurer: Simon Ford, approved by majority vote.
14. Election of executive committee
 - Libby Barber, David Cladingboel, Roger Edwards, Derek Herd, Peter Leake, Alastair Paterson, Chris Phillips, Iain Phillips, Esther Revell, Alan West, Wendy West, Ursula Williamson. Approved by majority vote.

15. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner for the 2022/23 financial year:

- Ian Chafer is to be asked to continue. Approved by majority vote.

16. Election of President and Honorary Members:

- President Ernie Williams proposed by Steve Chafer, approved by majority vote.
- Proposed honorary members: Zoe Sewter (National Forest), approved by majority vote.

Formal meeting closed at 8:22pm

Open Forum:

- Simon Starkey demonstrated the next generation SportIdent box and the issues with padlocking.
- Simon Starkey noted that several Si boxes had been repaired because of broken LCD screens. The cause is thought to be fixing the boxes on the stake first and pushing the stake into the ground with the box. Simon requested that planners affix the box after the stake is placed in the ground.
- Ernie Williams noted that changes at British Orienteering mean that BOF is now looking for volunteers for various national working groups.
- Ernie also noted that changes to the official's database will have an affect on who is a licensed organiser, planner or controller.
- Steve Chafer asked members their views on the awarding of club trophies to non-members – especially correspondent members.
- Steve noted that his view is to only award trophies to full members only. Eg junior and senior members.
- Chris Phillips noted that in the past, trophies that have been awarded to non-members have been lost.
- Roger Edwards noted that the old format of the club championships meant only full members competed.
- Steve Chafer noted that summer league had certificates for the highest placed non-members.
- Ernie Williams agreed it was appropriate to recognise non-members but keep the trophies for full members.
- Kevin Gallagher noted that the Yorkshire league only has trophies for regional members.
- Steve Chafer asked the members on behalf of Iain Phillips if the membership approved of StartKite as an entry system for all events and whether the club should continue the £1.00 surcharge for late entries.
- Steve noted that using StartKite allowed us to set map limits and would save on map recycling.
- Roger Edwards noted that the £1.00 surcharge does not encourage newcomers.
- Roger asked what the reason for the surcharge was.
- Steve Chafer suggested this might be to help on accurate numbers for map printing.

- Chris Phillips noted that StartKite allows entry on the day and this will require some different thinking for level D events.
- Steve Chafer noted that he wasn't in favour of the £1.00 surcharge.
- Simon Ford noted that he was in favour of StartKite as they paid promptly.
- Chris Phillips noted that EMOA has a vacancy for a Vice-chair and the EMOA committee could be improved with some new volunteers.

Meeting closed at 9:25pm

Chairman's Statement 2022 AGM

I am pleased to provide the Chair's annual statement for 2022. As is tradition I will aim to be brief and focus on the main points.

I am pleased to be able to report that for the first time in my period of office as Chair (this is now the end of my 3rd year) that we have been able to return almost to normality or the new normal as a club with events and activities following the pandemic.

In terms of the day to day running of the club there have been regular meetings of the club committee and sub committees, mainly via Zoom. This does seem to suit most members, so we will aim to continue with this zoom/ hybrid approach moving forward. I would like to thank Roger Phillips for his continued excellent work as secretary, for the continued timely distribution of all committee and AGM related minutes and other items. I would also like to thank other member of the executive board and wider committees for their work this year.

2022 saw the completion of a piece of work updating the club standing orders, Tidying and update of standing orders and more work on the Appendices and club roles. As agreed by committee these were approved and signed off by the exec committee. Thank-you Jane for coordination and everyone else involved in this extensive piece of work.

As highlighted last year there have been and continue to be a hand over of some of the key functions within the club. Simon Ford took over the role of Treasurer at the last AGM and has had quite a steep learning curve taking over the reins from Roger Edwards. As you will see the finances continue to be in a very healthy state, we have benefitted from better than forecasted revenues from event attendance and donations, which has also allowed us to continue to invest in new and replacement kit. I would like to thank Simon and Roger for his time working with Simon unravelling the complexity of the club accounts.

We held a full winter league (8 events) and summer league (17 events) programme in the last year with the summer league presentation held at Anstey Nomads football club. Hopefully with a slightly slicker collection of results and presentation of the awards than the previous year, following the slight change in the order of the league, with the score cup being the final event and not counting towards the league itself. Congratulations to all our winners of the leagues. I personally believe we should stick with this revised format.

We held 6 level C EML and EMUL events in the last 12 months, excluding the event yesterday at Bagworth. I hope that everyone who tried out TrailO for the first time yesterday enjoyed it. The Boothorpe EMUL event last year also incorporating the 2021 club champs. Our 2022 club championship was held just a few weeks ago at QEDJW. Congratulations again to all our winners. I was picked up by Roger Edwards the next day as we had previously discussed and agreed to award a Ladies golden boot winner, which I had completely forgotten about advertising or awarding. So, I apologise to Patrycja Czupryniak who was the fastest lady on the last leg with a time of 1 minute 23 seconds.

We hosted the final of the Yvette Baker trophy at Irchester in the summer. Many thanks to everyone involved in running of the final, unfortunately I has on holidays, but I understand it was a really successful event. It was a shame that we were unable to put out a larger junior team for the final, the timing of the event did not really help us with that. But those that did run all scored extremely well. Our performance in the Compass sport Cup or rather the Trophy this year as we are now classified as a smaller club was unfortunately not our best. It is disappointing that we did not see more of our “better” runners attending on the day. There is always this year!

As individuals there have been many excellent performances again this year. There were wins at the JK for Toni O Donovan in the W40 sprint event, a second place overall for Eoin Simpson in M12A and first place for Andy Simpson M45 and Don Moir for M85. As well as first place for Iain Phillips in the PreO sprint, which went a long way in helping him gain his selection for Great Britain for both European and World Trail O championships.

In the British Champs there were wins for Cerys Glover in the sprint with a second place for brother Dan. There was a 1st place for Toni, 2nd for Andy and 3rd Eoin in the British Middles and a 3rd place for Don in the British Long-distance event. Congratulation to all for some excellent individual performances in the last year.

We also continued last year with the club nights and Mapruns through the winter both of which were well attended. Thanks to Derek and other coaches for the club nights and everyone who has contributed to the Mapruns. Can I remind all of our registered coaches and first aiders to make sure that all of the checks and certification needed are up to date to allow you to continue to support these.

Club numbers have stayed relatively steady. Down just 3 from last year. Adults are up but there is the continued decline in juniors. Recruitment of new members continues to be challenging especially juniors and what we as a club can actually offer them outside of events. Unfortunately, there isn't a magic wand to whip up new members, but I believe that it is important that we continue our efforts especially around supporting schools through mapping and supporting events. We at least need to make people aware of the sport in one form or another.

We have made major changes to the look and feel of the club website in the last 12 months, especially around the use and access through mobile devices. The changes in this area have made the experience significantly better especially around accessing event details and results (basically what people are mostly interested in looking at on a weekly basis) and I would like to thank all involved in this.

I am very pleased that were able to hold our annual club dinner and presentation evening once again at Longcliffe Golf club. A very enjoyable evening was held. It is always an interesting evening when you have Ernie stood next to you when presenting the awards. I will look forward to whatever Ernie has to throw at me during the presentations in the coming year.

As I always say as it is so true volunteering is the life blood of the sport and the club. The club functions solely on the back of all the time and effort that is put in to the club on so many levels. I thank you all for your continued support throughout the year. I would especially like to thank Chris Phillips and Ursula Williamson who step down from their roles as Events Coordinator and Minor

events co-ordinators at this time. No two people stand out more than Chris and Ursula in upholding the values, traditions and spirit of the club. No one who saw both of them at the start in the pouring rain yesterday working as a slick well-oiled team would disagree. Thank you very much to you both.

Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes my report.

Steve Chafer

President's Remarks 2022

Good evening to you all – as Sophocles the Greek playwright said “You don't know what kind of day you will have, until evening” – and I am feeling that this has been a good and positive day as well as a fine evening – well, finer than yesterday morning first thing at Bagworth Woods to be truthful but things certainly improved throughout our day there for the East Midlands League and Trail-O Events.

Our Club is an example, alongside and amongst a whole range of Clubs, Societies, and Charities, of people working together for the good of others – and in the light of recent happenings it is a pleasure to have that knowledge reinforced by the stable and trusted leadership of our Officers, with our Chair, Steve, and Jane, Simon, and Roger, who have guided us throughout the past year and will do so into the future, knowing that our finances are in good order thanks to Simon and his predecessor Roger, and that so many members of our Club Committee are willing to continue for the coming year 2022 into 2023. Knowing also that future Events are being scheduled by Iain and Jane with the help of Maureen, with Club Captain David organising and arranging the active participation of members, our Club represented on EMOA by Chris, Ursula and Iain, that our excellent Club Newsletter continues to be in the capable hands of Alan and Wendy, and that each member by volunteering to help at Events, and at Club Nights, and to take on mapping and map printing, and getting involved in training sessions, makes O-Sport, our sport, happen throughout the year.

I have to admit I have been trying hard to ignore what comes into my mind when there is mention in the media of ‘cakeism’ as I have to honestly admit that it quite consistently brings to my mind one person amongst us and who is unknown to them but not to us and that is, of course, Ursula, who is one of the true and skilled bakers and makers.

There has been much quoting in the media of someone encouraging us all to be “looking to the broad sunlit uplands” – well, amongst the population of these ‘British Isles’ it surely has to be Orienteers of all ages, and particularly those who strive late in the day and early in the morning to prepare for Events large and small, who will have seen the moon rise up over woods and beyond the broad hills, as well as being there at the sunlit dawn as the mist clears through the trees and the deer start to graze – it truly makes you wonder why Orienteering remains, in some minds, as a ‘small outdoor adventure sport’, when we are the lucky ones who really know, let us admit it, at times challenging, at other times frustrating, but overall how good our sport can be, still able to add real variety and vigour to our lives – after all, look how we all manage to get, as I describe it, “our fresh air and fun”! Long may it continue.

I will ask you now to show your support for the re-election of Steve Chafer as our Chair for the year 2022 into 2023 – thank you.

Ernie Williams

Chairman's View for 2023

My first immediate hope is I that we can successfully get out of the carpark at the end of the evening. But I am sure someone will have already mention it by now. 😊 I can confirm I do have the code.

As I mentioned in my review of 2022 Chris and Ursula have stepped down from their roles as the event leads but will continue in their other roles and their support for the EMOA. There has been quite a deliberate long hand over period to their successors Iain Phillips and Jane Dring-Morris as of course much of the planning for the coming year has to be completed well in advance. So, Iain and Jane have been fully involved in the upcoming events for 2023 including the winter league that is now almost with us and other upcoming events.

The first Winter League event is in less than 2 weeks' time on the 5th November at Evington (Saturday). Entries are now open for the first 2 events so the website told me this morning.

I am sure that over the coming months Jane and Iain will bring more of their own styles and ideas to the schedule and events. Iain has already been putting his stamp on the events entries and has been a great champion of StartKite system for entries which we have successfully been using it for recent level C and D events. Iain has put forward a short paper on the future of entries using Startkite for the discussion after the AGM

Please do support both of them and event organisers as they look to find, planners, controllers and helpers for events. We rely entirely on the goodwill of the club members to help at events and indeed it is expected and does come as part and parcel of being an LEI club member.

Esther and Fid-O the orienteering dog (according to Facebook) are looking for volunteers for the event on 26th Nov at Boothorpe. Please contact her and let her know you can help and for access to the helper entry code.

With respect to major events, we will be hosting the regional heat of the Compass Sport Cup in Feb 2023 at Beacon Hill. With myself as planner and Chris Phillips as organiser. So, no excuses this year I expect a full turn out from the club as we attempt to qualify on home soil. David C I expect the recruitment to be in full swing by Christmas!

Looking a little bit further in to the future but it will soon be with us, we are hosting day 1, the sprint event at the 2024 JK at Loughborough University which is being held in the Midlands as a joint event of the East and West Midlands Orienteering associations. Iain Phillips has agreed to be the day organiser and will shortly be looking to set up teams to work toward the event. Steve Edgar has agreed to be the planner. Anyone who remembers the efforts of day 3 for JK 2014 in South Wales will realise the amount of work and planning that goes into a JK event day. It is more than just about a small team it is about a full club effort and more, to run a successful day at the JK. Fortunately, it is a bit closer for all those involved this time. I know that Iain and the club will be able to rely on your support as we host this high-profile event.

We will aim to continue to provide a similar level of events and activities through-out the year. Of course, unless the members tell us something different. If you do have any ideas and thoughts, please do let us know. The open session at the end of the AGM is an ideal opportunity for you to do so.

It has been noted that the club constitution has not been reviewed for some time, in fact since the 2016 AGM. We believe that it is time to do this again and we would like to ask/propose that Chris Phillips and Roger Edwards as grandees of the club would review this in advance of 2023 AGM, where if there were any amendments would need to be agreed.

We naturally focus heavily as a club on running events and activities, we run far more events than most clubs in one form or another with a club activity happening almost every week.

I would however like to mention the invaluable work of the development committee as they continue to look at ideas to improve experience of orienteering in Leicestershire, not only just for club members but for the wider community, through schools events/mapping, permanent and virtual courses, club nights training and recruitment. The development committee welcomes ideas from club members on how we can improve as a club and ideas for developing and recruiting new members. As I mentioned earlier there is no magic wand but all ideas are welcome, especially if they come with a well formulated and resourced plan.

I look forward to another full year of club activities and I hope to see you all out orienteering again very soon.

Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes my view for 2023.

Steve Chafer