

LEI AGM 28/10/13

## Chairman's Report

It has been another successful year for the Club with many excellent events and activities. They can't all be reported tonight, and I will concentrate on some highlights, and also a few more general aspects of the Club and the sport. As with last year I have enlisted some help from the Fixtures and Development Co-ordinators and the Club Captain to put some detail into their areas.

Although we did not put in an application for Club of the Year, I believe we are seen as one of the premier orienteering clubs in the country and still developing further in some directions. I think it is worth repeating a comment I made in LEI News. There was a table in the Spring Focus magazine of the number of Events and Activities organised by Clubs in 2012 in which LEI is top with 164, followed by EBOR with 154 and NOC with 138. Many of these are our Summer and Winter Level D league events but 112 were Activities, i.e. registered club nights and training events. The total of our events and activities now equates to just over three a week throughout the year. This is a great achievement and demonstrates a huge commitment by many members of the club, and again it is something that is recognised within British Orienteering

On that theme of activities I'd once again like to say thank you to pretty much everybody in the Club as we would not be able to run our events and activities without you. This is the reason that we can run such a large programme and a reason why we are a successful Club. I hope you enjoy doing it, there is, as ever, plenty of opportunity for the future.

We offer a large range of events and activities: there have been East Midlands League (Level C) events; the Summer and Winter League series; novelty events such as the Xmas Novelty and some league events, and club and training nights. As well as all these differing activities, we also of course organised a Level A event, The British Sprint Championships at Loughborough University. This event was well received by the competitors and again a tribute to the Club, with my personal thanks to over 60 members who were helping on the day. Peter Hornsby was the Mapper and Roger Edwards was the Planner.

This year the Club Championships took place at Sence Valley, and we held the presentations at the Ravenstone Institute, which was very suitable. There was an excellent turnout and congratulations go to Howard Alcock and Alison Hardy who are our 2013 Club Champions.

Every year we take part in the Compassport Cup, but this year we organised the East Midlands and East Anglia first round at Fineshade. This was a very good and close fought event, and the competitors appreciated the rolling, real time team score updates and we also trialled sending out the results by wireless to smartphones.

Once again we will be putting on a round of the East Midlands Urban League at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. This league has now expanded to six events, the others being Nottingham University, Lincoln, Stamford, Chesterfield and Buxton. It is really quite interesting to run round these towns and cities amongst the local population who are out shopping etc. This year, our event will be part of a weekend of orienteering, which also incorporates the Level B East Midlands Championships at Spring Cottage on the Sunday.

Our accounts will show that we have made a substantial surplus over the past financial year. However, there are special circumstances for this, which our Treasurer, Roger Edwards will explain

when he presents the accounts and next year's budget. We are indebted to Roger for looking after our finances and keeping us on track with expenditure. We have also applied for Community Amateur Sports Club Status with HMRC. To achieve this, we had to hold a brief EGM to make an alteration to our (new) Constitution after a summer league event. There are a number of benefits to the Club which Roger will explain.

The Club's Development and Training programme continues to improve and expand and Roger Edwards, our Development Co-ordinator, will expand on this a bit later. There will be a Regional training day in the New Year, which will be a chance to start getting involved or improve your skills. The East Midlands Area organised a second Controller/Planner conference in April, and this proved to be a very interesting and useful day, and will be continued in 2014.

At a Club level, the regular Club Nights (plus a social element) are proving popular with a regular attendance. There is a Monday night club for Juniors at Groby, Ashby map runners meet on Wednesday evenings and the regular club night on Thursdays has moved to the Glenfield Sports Centre. There has also been some East Midlands co-ordinated coaching prior to some of the East Midlands league events.

The Juniors continue to have great success and our sizeable and talented group is growing and has a wide age range. Roger Phillips, as Club captain, will expand on this area and tell you about their activities. At the Club Championships each year we present the Rising Star trophy and congratulations go to Hannah Cox as this year's recipient.

We would not get to do any event without maps and mappers. There are large projects to do and new maps to create but also our maps of smaller areas need to be kept fresh to be used for mainly level D events. The intended mapping training course to create map updaters has now taken place and they will be undertaking mapping work over the winter.

The Club presentation dinner in March at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club and was well attended. During the evening, the Club's champions are presented with their trophies and we also award the President's Salver for outstanding work over the last year and the Tiger Trophy to someone who has worked tirelessly for the Club over a number of years. This year's very worthy recipients were respectively Howard Alcock and Iain Tebbutt. We should also congratulate Finn Lydon, the M14 British Sprint Champion, Hannah Cox, W16 Midland Champion, and Trish Lydon, W45 Midland Champion.

We have a number of ways of communicating with our members, and apart from the website, we use a Facebook page and we have started to send out mailings with Mail Chimp and do a bulk posting in August. However, the method most favoured is still through LEI News. This year we have had 3 excellent editions of the newsletter edited by Wendy and Alan West, and also thanks are due to the contributors, as there has been a wonderfully wide range of items.

As some of you know, I am the Club representative on the East Midlands Orienteering Association committee. It has been something of an interim year regarding the EMOA officers as all those standing wished, or were able, to only stand for one year only. Consequently, there has been some introspection about the Association, its value, and purpose, and in many ways this has been a useful exercise and it has been agreed that there are valuable specific purposes including fixtures registration and co-ordination, development, coaching and the East Midlands Junior Squad. After some searching, and concern about getting officers and committee members, a full committee was elected at the EMOA AGM in September, with Ranald Macdonald of DVO taking over as Chairman.

At a National level, there has not been an Event Officials Conference this year, and the Club and Association Conference is imminent, taking place in Stratford-on-Avon. Last year I mentioned that BOF had lost a certain amount of funding and may be looking to a company called Limelight to help them reach participation targets for Sport England. In the end this did not happen, but BOF Development staff have been working with District Councils to roll out two new activities called Xplore Challenge for youngsters and Run Challenge for juniors and young adults. Leicestershire has been part of the initial exercise with events taking place in Melton Mowbray and Blaby. These events, although initiated by BOF are run by Council staff, so BOF do not directly control quality. It is also true that orienteering itself is not directly referred to, so we can only hope that this may result in a pathway into the sport as we know it.

The new BOF committee structure continues to be put in place. Last year I reported that Chris Phillips had been appointed onto the Events and Competitions Committee. Two of that committee's subcommittees are now chaired by LEI members, Ernie Williams chairs Event Officials and Peter Hornsby chairs Event Systems.

There are many things to come in the future that we are organising, some imminent and some longer term. These will be revealed later in the agenda with the help of Chris Phillips, our Fixtures Co-ordinator, but I would just like to mention JK2014 where we will be running Day 3 (the Sunday) as a club and Chris Phillips will be the Day Organiser. Many of you will have been approached about helping, but as with the British Sprints, we will need many helpers, but this time the event is 150 miles away!

Finally, it seems to me that we have an excellent year of orienteering to look forward to in 2014 and beyond, and with your help we will be able to achieve everything in our timetable.