

LEI AGM 27/10/14

## Chairman's Report

I make no apologies for starting this report with the same phrase as last year. It has been another successful year for the Club with many excellent events and activities. They can't all be reported tonight, and I intend to concentrate on some highlights, and also a few more general aspects of the Club and the sport. As has now become an annual event, I have enlisted some help from the Fixtures and Development Co-ordinators and the Club Captain to put some detail into their areas.

We have continued to provide a high level of events and activities, not just in number, but also in quality. Our Summer and Winter Leagues continue at the same high intensity, and we have produced our normal number of Level C East Midlands League events, plus a round of the East Midlands Urban League to take place at Loughborough University. Club night activity also progresses with great success at Groby, Glenfield and Ashby. The total of our events and activities continues to equate 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

As ever, 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 extends to Organisers, Planners, Controllers, Coaches, Mappers and everyone who helps at our events. 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, because there is, as ever, plenty of opportunity for the future, as you will be finding out later tonight.

As well as all these differing activities, we also of course organised another Level A event, Day 3 of the JK 2014 in South Wales. This event was well received by the competitors and again a tribute to the Club, with my personal thanks to everyone involved, but especially Chris Phillips as Organiser and Roger Edwards, the Planner, assisted by Peter Hornsby and Steve Edgar, and the Team Leaders. In 2013 the level A event the Club organised was at least in Loughborough, rather than in South Wales! For those able to attend, Roger gave a very illuminating talk about planning JK Day 3 at the EMOA Planners and Controllers conference, which certainly opened our eyes about the amount of work put in to ensure the success of the day. I'm sure that this talk would be worth repeating at a Club level.

This year the Club Championships took place at Feanedock and Rawdon East, and we held the presentations at Moira Village Hall, which was very suitable. There was an excellent turnout and congratulations go to Howard Alcock and Alison Hardy who are our 2014 Club Champions. I hope all competitors enjoyed running on a new area which will mature and improve in future years. The online entry worked really well, and the timed starts meant the we were all cleared up on the site before the buffet and presentations. I was particularly pleased to see that so many club members had come along to the social and presentations afterwards.

Every year we take part in the Compassport Cup, and for this year we went to Bentley Woods in March. This event had originally been scheduled for Kinver Edge in February, but was postponed due to weather conditions, more to do with parking than the competition area. We had our best result but sadly still didn't quite qualify for Final. I'll leave Roger Phillips to say how close we came.

Our accounts will show that we have made a small surplus over the past financial year. However, the final accounts from JK 2014 are yet to be produced and we should have been due a share of the surplus from this in our now closed accounts. Our Treasurer, Roger Edwards will explain when he presents the accounts and next year's budget in his report. We are indebted to Roger for looking after our finances and keeping us on track with expenditure. The Club is now running with Community Amateur Sports Club Status from HMRC. There are a number of benefits to the Club which we are getting to grips with and Roger will explain any detail as required.

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 was a Regional training day earlier in the year and the East Midlands Area organised a third Controller/Planner conference earlier this month, and this proved once again to be a very interesting and useful day, and will surely continue in future years.

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 continues at the Glenfield Sports Centre.

The Juniors continue to have great success and our sizeable and talented group is growing and has a wide age range. They have enjoyed successes at the Yvette Baker Trophy and the Peter Palmer Relays and Roger Phillips, as Club captain, will expand on this area and tell you about their activities. At the Club Championships each year we announce the recipient of the Rising Star trophy and congratulations go to Euan Tebbutt as this year's winner of the trophy. We also see club members having success in other age ranges and one of our other stars is Don Moyer, running in the M80 age group. We should also congratulate Hannah Cox, who has represented British Orienteering in Europe.

The Club presentation dinner in March at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club was well attended, in fact I believe this year's attendance was a record for recent years. 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 Roger Phillips and Kevin Bradley.

We have a number of ways of communicating with our members, and apart from the website, we use a Facebook page and send out mailings with Mail Chimp and also do a bulk posting in August. This year we have also been experimenting with a Twitter presence. 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. This is an award winning magazine and is a recipient of the Compassport Newsletter Awards.

As some of you know, I am the Club representative on the East Midlands Orienteering Association committee. Despite some concerns about lack of volunteers, a full committee was elected 12 months ago and last year I said that the introspection about the organisation put a focus on what was needed from it. These functions included fixtures registration and co-ordination, development, coaching support and the East Midlands Junior Squad and it has been carrying out work in these areas. However, a Chairman was not elected at this year's but the current Vice Chairman, John Hurley has since agreed to stand as Chairman for this year only with Amanda Roberts from LOG becoming Vice Chair.

At a National level, the Event Officials Conference returned to the calendar, and the Club and Association Conference took place on Saturday in Stratford-on-Avon. We had LEI representation at both events. British Orienteering headquarters is about to move to Tansley from Darley Dale in order to take advantage of smaller offices now that there are not so many staff working daily from the HQ and thus also to save some money.

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. As I mentioned in my recent Chair's Ramble in LEI News, I'm always interested in hearing the views of members about our aspirations for running national events, and of course on any other aspects of the Club. Even better, please contact me or Chris if you would like to get more involved.

Finally, it seems to me that we have an excellent year of orienteering to look forward to in 2015 and beyond, and with your help we will be able to achieve everything in our timetable.