

LEI AGM 26/10/15

## Chairman's Report

I usually start this report by saying that the Club has had a good year with excellent events and activities, and this is the case again. The key word for at least the last three years has been continuity. There has been a dependability about the leagues, the club nights and EML events that we have put on. There have been other things of course, our Level A events both locally and in Wales, and our entry into EMUL Urban events in Ashby and Loughborough. Continuity does give a sense of comfort, but that's not to say that making changes is not good or desirable. The committee has also been quite stable for a period now, with many positions being filled by the same people, but this AGM will see changes, as you may have seen from the officer nominations in a recent Mailchamp email update.

It has been another successful year for the Club with many excellent events and activities, not all of which can be reported tonight, and I intend to concentrate on some highlights, and also a few more general aspects of the Club and the sport. Another thing that has not changed is that 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 a high intensity, and we have produced our normal number of Level C East Midlands League events, plus two rounds of the East Midlands Urban League which took place at Ashby and Loughborough North. Club night activity also continues with great success at Groby, Glenfield and Ashby. The total of our events and activities continues to equate to around three a week throughout the year. This is a great achievement and demonstrates a huge commitment by many members of the club.

As ever, and for the final time as Chairman, 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. The generosity of everyone with their help has made the club Chairmanship an easier job than it could have been.

This year the Club Championships took place at Shellbrook, and we held the presentations at Ravenstone Village Hall, which was very suitable, using caterers that have done a few events for us now. There was an excellent turnout and congratulations go to Howard Alcock and Hannah Cox who are our 2015 Club Champions. We again used online entry which had worked really well when tried in 2014, and the timed starts meant that we were all cleared up on the site before the buffet and presentations. It was good to see many club members and some friends at the social and presentations.

Every year we take part in the Compassport Cup, and for this year we went to Sherwood Pines in March. We had a good result but sadly still didn't quite qualify for Final. I'll leave the Club Captain to say how close we came, but it is our ambition to get there one day.

Our accounts will show that we have made a surplus over the past financial year. Our Treasurer, Roger Edwards will explain the position when he presents the accounts and next year's budget in his

report. We are indebted to Roger for looking after our finances for yet another year and keeping us on track with expenditure. Since the Club is now running with Community Amateur Sports Club Status from HMRC, there are a number of benefits to the Club and ways of improving our income, which we are achieving thanks to Roger's financial skills.

The Club's Development and Training programme continues to improve and expand and Roger Edwards, our Development Co-ordinator, will say something on this a bit later. There is to be another Regional training day at the end of this week, organised by the EMOA Development Officer (Chris Phillips) and although there has not been a Controller/Planner Conference in the past twelve months, they are interesting and useful, 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, with the addition here of some of the older Juniors.

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 Harrington Leake as this year's winner of the trophy. We should also congratulate Hannah Cox, who has represented British Orienteering at the Junior World Championships.

The Club presentation dinner in March at our current regular venue of Kirby Muxloe Golf Club 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 or two 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 Tracey Brookes and Birthe Richter-Wilson.

We have a number of ways of communicating with our members and these have all been continuing busily over the past 12 months. We have the website, the Facebook page and send out mailings with Mail Chimp and also do a bulk posting in August. There has also been experimentation with a Twitter presence. However, the method most favoured by the membership is still through LEI News. Once again 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 for another year is a recipient of the Compassport Newsletter Awards.

I have continued to be the Club representative on the East Midlands Orienteering Association committee. A full committee was elected at the AGM in September, looking very similar to the previous year, including John Hurley as Chairman who said he would only take over for one year. The functions of the committee include fixtures registration and co-ordination, development, coaching support and the East Midlands Junior Squad, which has now been taken over by Dai Bedwell

At a National level, the Club and Association Conference took place recently in Stratford-on-Avon and we were represented by Roger Edwards. The Chief Executive, Mike Hamilton now sends out regular emails to Club officials to keep us in touch with what is happening and is of importance regarding governance, safety and insurance issues etc. Club members continue to serve on some of the national committees and subcommittees.

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. We have recently been running a simple questionnaire for members and parents to comment on the Club and the events that we put on. Hopefully, this will produce some interesting data and this idea was suggested at a marketing evening that was put on for club officials. But also, please contact one of us personally if you would like to discuss any issues or ideas or would like to get more involved with the running of the Club. Volunteers will always be welcome.

It seems to me that we have an excellent year of orienteering to look forward to in 2016 and beyond, and with your help we will be able to achieve everything in our timetable. Finally, I would just like to say personally that the help of everyone, especially the officers and committee has been much appreciated over the last 4 years that I have been Chairman. Iain Tebbutt is also stepping down after 4 years as Vice Chair and his help and support has been much appreciated. It has certainly made the task easier than it might have been, and it has also been a very enjoyable experience.