

**LEI O. C. 2015 AGM Agenda item 13:
The President's Remarks and the Election of the Chairman**

It is with real pleasure that I have this opportunity to give a 'Vote of Thanks' to the Officers of the Club - Chairman Bob Haskins, Vice Chairman Iain Tebbutt, Treasurer Roger Edwards and Secretary Laurie Fluck - who have, together with the members of the Committee, once again navigated us safely and in good financial health through the past year - it is this committed group of orienteers that enables our Club to be second to none within the UK.

Thanks must also go to those who have acted in whatever way as officials, coaches, mappers, assistants and helpers - without the very large amount of work and effort that often goes unseen the large range of events and activities would not take place so regularly throughout 'our patch' of Leicestershire, Rutland, and the northern half of Northamptonshire and, occasionally, much further afield.

Two items that have been a feature throughout the past year and will continue to do so into the forthcoming twelve months and beyond, are 'Volunteers and Volunteering' together with 'Event Safety and Welfare'.

Our sport would not be able to function without the active and whole-hearted support of Club members and at the upper reaches of British Orienteering the Chief Executive, the Chair and the Board of the Federation, and the Chair and the members of Events and Competitions Committee, are all determined to ensure that recognition is given not only for the time and effort provided but also that being a volunteer is recognised for the important part it plays in the day-to-day life of every 'O' Club and, in our neck of the woods, particularly within LEI.

Whilst away in the Lakes I was invited to a Club Social with a Guest Speaker and, after Meat and Potato Pie with Mushy Peas and Pickled Red Cabbage and a very enlightening half hour with slides and video about a being a Volunteer at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, I thanked the Guest Speaker for consistently mentioning the value that needs to be placed upon volunteers, though it did take a different tangent when one of those earwiggling nearby pointed out that she hoped the Club would further develop the 'Thank You' to Organisers by handing over a bottle of good wine at the same time as saying the words - I must admit to telling all who were listening that the LEI Treasurer makes sure that a 'Free Run Voucher' redeemable at a future Club Event is made available to Organisers, Planners and Controllers, though often a goodly number remain unclaimed!

For those of you who do not read the informative and stimulating Minutes of Board Meetings - OK sometimes not too stimulating but definitely informative! - those for 19th September this year had one item that will affect a significant number of British Orienteering members throughout the UK, especially if they organise, plan or control any registered Event at all Levels from A to D, and these are amendments that had been proposed for certain sections of the Appendices to the Rules:

"The amendments, in the main, are for all Event Officials at all Levels of Events to have attended an Event Safety & Welfare Workshop. This should ensure that:

- *all Event Officials are aware of the need for a high level of awareness of safety and welfare issues*
- *the need for the full completion of Risk Assessment documentation*

In order that British Orienteering, clubs and associations are as fully legally covered as is possible in the event of an accident to a participant at any registered event.

After a brief discussion the Board agreed and ratified these changes."

As you will all realise, it is now essential that Event Safety and Welfare Workshops are made widely available and Chris Phillips, EMOA's Regional Development Coordinator, will this coming weekend be holding a full morning ES&W session as part of the EMOA Training Day at Charnwood College with, I would think, other sessions to follow, certainly through the next year and beyond.

Speaking of which, it is now the time for me, on behalf of you all, to repeat our thanks to Bob Haskins for the four years during which he has been the Chairman of our Club, and to ask you to welcome Chris Phillips as he has been formally proposed and seconded as our Club Chairman for 2015-2016 and to wish him 'Good Luck!' for the forthcoming year.

Chris, now it is over to you for item 14 - The 'New Chairman's Remarks'.

Ernie Williams
26th October 2015