

## LEI AGM 2017. Chairman's Report

As always there is a lot to report and to keep the meeting reasonably brief I am only going to report on some of the major events and activities of the last year.

As you will have seen from Jane's membership report we have had a drop in numbers over the last year. From memory this is the biggest drop we have had in the last 10 years. We normally do have a turn over of members each year but usually arrivals balance the departures. This has not been the case during the last year. Over the last 10 years the East Midlands region has suffered a 40% drop in membership. We have, until this year managed to buck the trend, with club membership numbers remaining reasonable static. Looking at the list of leavers there are good reasons for most of them going. Some have moved away and moved to other clubs, some have tried orienteering and found it not to their taste, for others old age has taken its toll and they have hung up their compass. Never the less it is clear that we must take action to recruit more members and I would like to return to this later in the evening.

One of the highlights of the year has been the Club Training Day organised in the Lake District by Chris Heaton in June. The Saturday training was complemented by a level C event on the Sunday. Many thanks to Chris for organising a day of high quality training.

In the area of coaching we continue to run three clubs nights and thanks are due to the club coaches and club night coordinators who give up their evenings to facilitate these sessions. We are currently looking to support coaches who wish to move from Level 1 to gain Level 2 qualifications. One of the problems is the dearth of training courses both locally and nationally. On the topic of coaching, Mark Hardy and Iain Phillips attended the National Coaching Weekend in January of this year and this will contribute to their Continuous Professional Development, which is a requirement for all coaches.

At the beginning of this year Stephen Chafer took over responsibility for our Permanent Orienteering Courses. Stephen is currently conducting a review of courses to assess those which need major repair and looking as to whether it is worthwhile continuing to maintain those courses that are lightly used.

Stephen is currently working with the Bradgate Park Trust to add extra courses for use by school parties. As this requires input from English Nature this is proving to be rather a slow process. New leaflets, created by the Education team at Bradgate Park for the Orange and Light Green courses are now on sale at the park shops.

Following on from an idea gained from SYO, in the autumn and winter of 2016/17 we piloted a schools league in North West Leicestershire. We have for several years run a very successful Primary Schools Championships which attracts over 500 children and there was an expectation that a Saturday League would have some support. Unfortunately this was not the case and attendances at the events were very low.

Undaunted the team who ran last year's league are trying again, this time with more support from the District Council. It is hoped that they will have more success the second time round.

In terms of events it has been, with the exception of the East Midlands Championships at Wakerley, somewhat of a quiet year, the lull before the storm arriving next year. That does not mean that we have not had any events, in fact we managed to log up a total of 47 in the last 12 months. During the year another 6 members of the club completed the Event Safety and Welfare Course and several other members have moved up the planning and organising grades.

My thanks to Ursula for taking on the role of Minor Fixtures Coordinator and navigating us through the perils of the Summer League and producing such a successful programme in her first year and many thanks to everybody who organised and planned. I also want to thank all those who helped collect controls at the end of events. We can always do with more volunteers for this task. Despite our drop in membership numbers at the Summer League events were roughly the same as in previous years. The winter league is now in full swing with the second event on Thursday evening and the programme for next years summer league is ready to go to press!

The club's executive committee has met four times during the year and the Events Sub Committee and the Development Sub Committee have met at regular intervals throughout the last 12 months. My thanks to the committee for all the work that has been put in over the last year. It makes my job as chairman very much easier having the support of such a good committee. Bob is retiring as vice chairman at this meeting. On behalf of the club I would like to thank Bob for all the work he has done over many, many years. As far as I am aware, Bob is the only person who has in turn filled the roles of Secretary, Vice Chairman, and Chairman not forgetting a second spell as Vice Chairman. Once again many thanks. Bob is staying on the committee but he has given up his other role as the Club Delegate to the EMOA Committee. So we are looking for a new delegate and I would welcome a volunteer.

Much of our competition success this year has been as a result of the performances of the juniors. Some highlights. A third place in the JK relays for one of our teams. Another podium at the Peter Palmer Junior Team Relays, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Joan George Trophy. A win in the Regional Heat of the Yvette Baker Trophy and of course that brilliant third place, after several recounts, in the Finals.

Individually, at the Midland Championships at Bentley Wood we had eight Midland champions, which I believe is the highest we have ever had. The British Middle Distance Championships at Wendover gave us two British Champions, Daisy Rennie and Finn Lydon. That day I was undertaking one of my other orienteering roles and I was the official presenting the medals and trophy and it was a very special moment to present two club members with their British Championship medals.

Finally thank you to everybody who has done so much over the last year to keep the club running so smoothly and enable us to put on some many events and activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes my report.