

## President's Remarks:

“Evening All – it is a privilege to be asked to give an overview of the Club and the Club’s activities and those who make them possible. Hoping not to be thought following the example of one Alexander Johnson – better known as he is by his second rather than first name! - but this past year has brought to mind the phrase *‘Tempus Fugit’*. British Orienteering celebrates it’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year and a stalwart of the sport – Chris James of NGOC - has been awarded the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award, and I reached the milestone of becoming an M75, albeit a very slow and stuttering aged orienteer but still ‘battling on’!

Looking backwards makes one appreciate what has been and, perhaps, with regrets, what might have been, but also makes one positive about looking forward, anticipating the future, in the short, medium, and long term, with those leading our sport tackling the outcome of the Deloitte ‘Strategic Plan’ and the extensive range of the listed priorities and objectives, having to come to terms with financial restraints, and amending the structure and organisation of our sport, with members knowing that changes in minor or indeed major ways will have an effect upon their enjoyment and participation in Events and other aspects, be they coaching, mapping, organising, planning, controlling, educating, or simply being part of a group encouraging others of all ages to ‘give orienteering a go’ at Local Events’ and what used to be known as ‘CATI’ - ‘Come and Try It’.

As a Club we are fortunate, some would say ‘blessed’, with members with a wide range of skills and abilities who give their time and enthusiasm to guide the Club successfully day by day throughout each year from AGM to AGM, with some working for the sport further afield within our Region and beyond, including nationally within Groups and Committees. It is at this point that I would like to formally, on behalf of our Club, offer congratulations to Chris Phillips – though perhaps Chris might prefer commiserations – on his appointment as Chair of the Events & Competitions Committee. Chris has already made clear to the Board of Directors his views on the future management of our sport which can be described as forthright, direct, and – to use a phrase much used in the past year - ‘speaking truth to power’!

On behalf of the membership it gives me great pleasure to say ‘Thank You’ to our Officers, our Committee, and all who, in whatever way, have made the past year a success, particularly the Juniors, together with a wide range and number of Events within the East Midlands, Club Summer, Winter, and Saturday & Schools Leagues, Club Night coaching and training sessions, including a weekend in the Lake District, and not forgetting the Editors of our excellent ‘LEI News’.

Like all of you present here this evening, I know that we can look forward to another year of positive action and activity from this Autumn and through the months until we formally meet again next year at the 2018 AGM.

In conclusion, I ask that we move on to the next item on the Agenda to elect your Club Chairman, the other three Officers, and the Committee for 2017-2018.”

Ernie Williams