

## Chairman's report to LEI AGM 2018

As always in the interest of brevity I will only be dealing the highlights of the last 12 months.

Much has happened in the last year, not always as planned! The winter weather hit the orienteering programme in the East Midlands very hard. Our UKOL weekend at Irchester and Belvoir was one of the victims. As you all be well aware it was a bitterly cold weekend but fortunately on the Saturday the snow held off long enough for the event to go ahead. Many thanks to all those shivered their way through the day helping run an event which attracted much praise and positive comment. The weather did not hold for the rest of the weekend and it was clear at 7.00 am on the Sunday that whilst the forest was OK for orienteering, the parking areas and estate roads were not passable and in places dangerous, and reluctantly I cancelled the event. Many thanks to the event officials for both days who put in a huge amount of work over the previous two years.

Thankfully the rest of our event programme ran smoothly and as I have commented in the latest LEI news our summer league programme was one of the best attended and most exciting for several years.

One the topic of events, one major piece of work that many of you may have missed is the changes over of our maps to the latest set of I.O.F specifications. Many thanks to Simon Starkey, our mapping co-ordinator for facilitating this and the club mappers who have put in a lot of time to make this happen.

As some of you will know from the membership report, last year and again this year we have suffered a drop-in membership. As a response to this your committee agreed to a recruiting drive, using as a model, the Park Series of events tried by DVO and NOC in 2017. The events have been advertised extensively through Facebook and are aimed at those who have little knowledge of the sport. Starting in September we have now completed 3 of the 5 events. Whilst the attendance of newbies is encouraging the success will really be measured in the numbers joining the club. My thanks to Roger Phillips for a orchestrating our Facebook Campaign.

When it comes to recruiting new members, please remember that the best method of recruiting is members bringing their friends along to events.

At four of our events this year we welcomed Tim Herod from British Orienteering. Tim conducted a survey of some of those attending the events - you may well have spent 10 mins with an I pad giving your views about the sport in general and LEI events in particular. Tim spent an evening in early September with Steve, Jane, Roger and myself to analyse the results. The results showed that most of those surveyed are happy with our club event programme and don't wish to see any significant change. In fact, Tim commented that given the results of the survey there was not a lot he could suggest in the way of changes - unlike the other clubs in the survey pilot scheme!

In February the club executive committee took a decision on the advice of the then coaching coordinator to reduce the number of club nights to one. This was to relieve the pressure on the coaching team and maximise the use of resources. The club night is currently running at South Charnwood School on Monday evenings. I think it

is too early to judge how much of a success the move and change to one evening has been.

Steve Chafer, in his role as Permanent Course Coordinator has made some changes to the management of the permanent courses that we have available. To reflect the work, we put into mapping areas, as maps are updated, we will be charging for most downloads. This year our two new sprint maps: Peter Hornsby's Irchester map and Peter Leake's Abbey Park have moved from being free to a small charge of about 50p per map, with sets of maps at reduced rates. The number of downloads remains high, but this includes one person who did download over one hundred course maps!

At the end of 2017 the BOF Development Team offered the club the use of a set of Xplorer equipment, and training in its use. We had a trial run at the Irchester event in March. Turnout was exceptional low, i.e. we are not sure anybody took part! so we are having another go at Bradgate in November and this will be in conjunction with the East Midlands League and the Leicester 5 Parks Challenge. We are hopeful that this will be organised by our juniors.

Our juniors once again have had a very good year with a comprehensive win in the Regional Heat of the Yvette Baker Trophy and a very good 5<sup>th</sup> Place in the Final.

Libby Barber was selected for the Lagganlia Training camp and also received the Rising Star Trophy at the post Club Championships presentations.

On the national stage Daniel Glover gained a 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the M10A Final at the British Sprints and went two places better the next day at British Middles winning the M10 class. Older brother Ben also had a good weekend collecting second place in the M12 class at the British Middles.

Not to be out done our Seniors also collected a number of major titles.

Andy Simpson became M45 British Champion at Balmoral in May and M45 Middle Distance Champion at Stockhill in September.

Toni O'Donovan collected both British Sprints and British Middles W40 titles at the weekend in September

And just to round off that particular weekend Don Moir came home with the Sprints M85 title and second place M85 in the Middles.

I think I should add that at the Lakes 5 days Don won on three days and came second on the other two in the M85 class.

Congratulation must also go to Iain Phillips on his selection for the GB team at the European Trail O Championships in Slovakia

On the social side I must report on one wedding and one addition to the orienteering fraternity.

Julie Ferris and John Worth married in June and a number of us had a very pleasant weekend in the Lake District at their second wedding reception. I have to say this is

the first time that I have had an invitation to a wedding reception has included the words "please join us for a fell race" I can report that LEI members excelled in the dancing that took place at then end of the evening.

Congratulations to Chris and Liz Heaton on the birth of their son Marcus who arrived in mid August - and three weeks later went to his first orienteering event.

Lastly, I wish to extend my thanks to Steve, Jane and Roger, my fellow principle officers for all the work they have put in over the last 12 months, much of it behind the scenes and un beknown to the majority of members of the club. Thanks also to all those of you who have sat on committee, coached, organised and planned or just helped with the 100 and 1 jobs that have needed doing over the last year, you make the running of this club a very easy task. Thank you very much.

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen, that concludes my report.