

Plans for the Forthcoming Year. AGM 2018

Looking first at finance. As our accounts show we have a healthy bank balance and in the immediate future there is no reason to suppose that our current financial state will deteriorate. However, I would like to sound some warning notes. Firstly, we are heavily dependent on the income we receive from our members gift aid contributions and that is dependent on tax regulations set by the government. Given the uncertain financial future there is always the possibility that will change. Secondly, costs are continuing to rise, in particular access fees for event areas, and thirdly, whilst we may not be affected, with the continuing uncertainty of the Brexit negotiations a significant drop in the amount of disposable income that people have, may well reduce our income. None of these are at the moment a cause for alarm we do need to be aware of the possible pressures on our finances.

In November the club's executive committee will be reviewing the Development Plan. The current plan is coming to the end of its life cycle and we now need to consider the next three to four years in the life and development of the club. One of the issues that we will have to examine is recruitment of new members and we will be analysing the results from the Park Series and looking at what pointers we can take forward from those events.

Our event programme as always will be at the core of what we do. The Summer and Winter Leagues will be running as normal and we will be staging the usual programme of Level C events. The highlight of next year is of course the staging of the British Sprint Championships on the 14th September at Loughborough University. The event will be a World Ranking Event. This is the first time that IOF have accepted a British Sprints as WRE.

Sprint events are becoming more popular and we are expecting around 900 competitors. Bob and I will be asking members, early in the new year to take on Team Leader roles and later in the summer inviting everybody to help

Because of the work load of staging such a high-profile event we will be staging one less Urban Level C this year. There is currently a discussion at EMOA committee about reducing the number of Level C events, that take place each year in the region. In particular a reduction in the numbers of events in various leagues. This is because not only are all the clubs in the region struggling to find event officials but several clubs are having difficulty gaining access to areas at certain times of the year.

One of the problems that the club has had for several years is a shortage of mappers. Maps are of course at the core of our sport and our small band of mappers are not getting any younger. Unless we can find some new recruits to the ranks of our mapping team we will be faced with a real problem in the near future. Or the increased expense of employing professional mappers.

Our Club Night at South Charnwood School will continue to run for the next year and will, among other things, form the core of our work with juniors. Judging by results in the last year, we have some very promising juniors and there is I think many more podiums to come from our current junior squad.

Our juniors, lead by Anna our Junior Captain will be planning and organising the Winter League event at the Hermitage. I hope you will all support them at that event.

On a personal note, as some of you are aware, I will not be seeking re-election as Chairman next year. I have been your Chairman for 7 of the last 11 years and its high time that I returned to the back benches. Steve, has volunteered next year, to move from the comfort of the Vice Chairman's seat to take over as Chairman and Jane has accepted my suggestion that as excellent as she is as Secretary she would make an event better Vice Chairman. You will all of course realise that we will then need a new Secretary – names have been mentioned!

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes my comments on the year ahead.