

## President's Remarks:

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen – as we are gathered once again it is an honour to do so as your President, in part to make public a few thoughts, and to give thanks for the past year, and to look forward to what the future will bring.

If there is one theme that has run through the past twelve months it is that of 'Challenges', be they personal such that we are able to see what each of us have achieved, hopefully to a reasonable level of satisfaction and enjoyment, what improvements we still need to make in a variety of competitive formats both individually and equally importantly as a Club, and the link between the membership of our Club, our Region, and the wider reaches of the British Orienteering Federation throughout the United Kingdom, and we have a significant standing and reputation because of our excellent record through the years of hosting the wide range of Events through the Levels from Local to Major.

There is saying that "There is no 'I' in 'Team'" and it is this working of our members together, very specifically as 'LEI', that enables us to put on the variety of Events such as the East Midlands League, the East Midlands Urban League, the Summer and Winter Leagues, the newly formed '5 Parks Challenge', and hosting 'National' and 'Major Championship' Events.

In all of this there are still challenges to meet – it is being suggested, rightly, that if there are variety of formats of Event then our members and those from other Clubs should have the opportunity to hone and practice their skills at, for example, Sprint Distance, Middle Distance, and Relay Events, as well as the Long Distance, Urban, and Night Events.

Also, next month there is the opportunity to discover, learn, and enhance new and existing skills at the Regional Training Day, such that the Club has more Organisers, Planners, Mappers, and Controllers, to not only spread the load but also to bring in and bring on new 'Event Officials' and 'Event Helpers' and 'Co-Organisers', Co-Planners, and 'Assistant Controllers', not forgetting the important roles that our Club Coaches undertake at the regular 'Club Nights' and elsewhere with a wide variety of ages Club members aiming to improve their technical and physical performances.

This in turn means that it is envisaged that our Club will adapt successfully at coping with changing circumstances, including that of falling membership throughout the UK, the current ageing membership profile, coping with effects from outside of our sport such as land access and rising access charges, and possible changes in the overall structure of our Sport with regard to Events and to Management, for example with the recent appointment of a Major Events Consultant and an England Competitions Officer.

Also, recently I was asked to give my views on a Newsletter from a distinctively non-sporting Leicestershire Group and my overall comment was that, when compared to our award-winning Newsletter, it was pretty good and that the members should be proud and supportive of their Editor, just as we are of our Editors – I thought that this should be, and it was, taken as praise indeed!

So, throughout the past year, and in the year to come, we are fortunate to have the very real benefit of experienced Officers and Committee Members, together with members willing to give of their time committed to offering help and assistance at Events from small to large – for this we should say a very big "Thank You" and "Keep up the good work"!

I will conclude by saying a personal 'Thank You' and by moving on to the next items on the Agenda, the first of which is to elect your Club Chair, and for this important position I propose that it be Chris Phillips, secondly the other Officers, and then the Club Committee for the coming year 2018-2019.

Ernie Williams  
29<sup>th</sup> October 2018