

LEI AGM 2019

Chairman's Report

As usual, in the interests of brevity, I am only going to touch on the highlights of what has been an eventful year.

In terms of the day to day running of the club, the Executive Committee and the Sub Committees have met at regular intervals throughout the year. Additionally, your principal officers have also met on a regular basis, both formally and informally. As the Treasurer will shortly report, our finances are in a strong position and whilst maintaining our membership level is challenging, we are in a better situation than many clubs in the UK.

The core of any Orienteering Club is its event programme. During the last year we have organised 35 events. Not surprisingly with the dramatic decline of our club neighbours NOC, numbers at our Level C events have declined slightly. That has not the case with our 2019 Summer League. Average numbers, at Summer League events, rose from 42 in 2018 to 53 in 2019.

In 2018 the competition at the Summer League, for the lady's trophy went down to wire, this year it was the men's turn with only 5 points separate the overall winner Andy Glover from second place Ed De Salis Young. My thanks to all the club members who planned and organised events and to Ursula for running the league. Incidentally Ursula is currently looking for organisers for the 2020 league.

Undoubtedly the highlight of our event year was the hosting of the British Orienteering Sprint Distance Championships. The event had the additional interest of being a I.O.F World Ranking Event. The first ever in Leicestershire.

It is generally accepted that the "Sprints" are the most technically complex of all the elements of the British Championships. With the added issues presented by the WRE races there were a significant number of challenges for the Organising and Planning teams. As is often the case with the big events a number of problems winged in at the last minute, none of them of our making. Thankfully all way well on the day.

As a club we were very lucky to have a great of support from the Staff at Loughborough University and it was a great pleasure to welcome the Vice Chancellor of the University to the presentations at the end of the event.

One of the best decisions that we made early in the organising process was commissioning Si entries, not only to handle the entries, but additionally to take on start allocations for the heats and finals. This took a great deal of pressure off us as a club and Si did a superb job, apart from small blip.

Many thanks to my fellow event officials, Bob, Iain, Peter, Roger and Ursula for all the work they put in the year before the event. I must also thank all the team leaders and club members who contributed so much to making the event the most smooth-running Sprints since to 2013.

Turning to other club matters.

I mentioned earlier that maintain membership numbers was a challenge. This is not a new phenomenon. I recently was filing some back copies of the LEI from the late 1990's The LEI news recorded that we had 35 new members that year. Within 2 years all those new members had left. New members are like gold and we should do everything to nurture them and help them develop as orienteers.

I mentioned at last year's AGM we have moved Club Nights to a single night at South Charnwood School. A tweak to this has been changing the night from Monday to Tuesday. This has been very successful with our numbers being consistently in the high teens with a wide age range of attendees.

We have carried on our very good relationship with schools in North \West Leicestershire. As a result of the Primary Schools Competition over the last few years children from Worthington Primary School took part as members of the LEI team both at the YBT Regional Heat and at the Final.

For the Compass Sport Cup Final in March at Sherwood Pines over half the club membership turned out to run for the club. One of our best turn out in recent years. Whilst we did n't win, we did have a very good results against some of the strongest clubs in the country.

Talking of Team Events, I must thank Roger Phillips our Club Captain for all his work organising the club, over the last 7 years at the various senior and junior team events. Roger is standing down, as Captain, at the end of this meeting -although he has volunteered for another role. In addition to all his work as Captain he has master minded our Facebook page and group and produced a most of the graphics for all our event and club publicity. Something I hope he will continue in his new role. Thank you for all your work.

We have a complete change of Club Captains this year as Anna our Junior Captain has moved on to University. My thanks to her for all the work that she has put in over the last two years and our best wishes for the future.

As I indicated last year I would be standing down as Chairman, although I will be continuing as a committee member and if the new Chairman ask's me as the Club Events Co-ordinator.

Finally thank you to everybody for all your support over the last few years. The club is very lucky in having a such a large and capable body of members who make the Chairman's job so easy.

Chris Phillips.

