



Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting of the Leicestershire Orienteering Club held on Monday 26th October 2020 online via Zoom

Present:

Chris Phillips, Ursula Williamson, Jane Dring-Morris, Steve Chafer, Chris Bosley, Alastair Paterson, Roger Edwards, Ernie Williams, John Marriott, Roger Phillips, Simon Starkey, Roy Denney, Esther Revell, Iain Phillips, Peter Chick, David Cladingboel, Libby Barber, Robert Titterington, Ian Wilson, Matt White.

Wendy and Alan West joined the meeting for the Open forum

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence:
 - Peter Hornsby, Peter Leake, Laurie Fluck.
2. Declaration of membership numbers:
 - 103 Seniors and 26 juniors for 2020.
3. Approval of minutes of the AGM held on Monday 28th October 2019 were agreed to be a true record.
4. Matters arising from the minutes:
 - The Chairman noted that a review of the clubs standing orders was not carried out in the last 12 months.
5. Chairman's Report on the past year:
 - see attached report "Chairman's Statement 2020 AGM".
6. Treasurer's report and Budget for coming year:
 - The last year was a financial success for club due to the British Sprints, however the surplus has been spent on financing club entries to the CompassSport Cup and the 50th anniversary mementoes.
 - The Treasurer noted that the loss income from cancelled events has had a detrimental impact the club finances.
 - The Treasurer noted that due to the ongoing pandemic, his budget projections varied wildly based on the number of likely events the club would be able to hold. Worst case scenario the club would face a loss of £2,000.
7. Independent Financial Examiner's report:
 - The accounts have been approved by the Independent Financial Examiner, Ian Chafer, with no adverse comments.
8. Approval of accounts:
 - The accounts were approved by majority vote.
9. Report of any amendments to the Club Standing Orders.
 - No amendments in the last 12 months
10. Club membership fees for 2022:

- Roger Edwards proposed that there should be no changes to membership fees for 2022. Approved by majority vote. *(LEI membership fees to remain at £0 (with the exception being those non LEI members who receive a copy of the LEI News)*
11. President's remarks and election of Chairman:
 - see attached report "President's Remarks 2020". Steve Chafer elected as Chair.
 12. Chairman's outline of the coming year.
 - see attached report "Chairman's View for 2020".
 13. Election of Principal Officers (Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer)
 - Vice Chair Jane Dring-Morris, approved by majority vote.
 - Secretary Roger Phillips, approved by majority vote.
 - Treasurer Roger Edwards, approved by majority vote.
 14. Election of Executive Committee.
 - Libby Barber, Laurie Fluck, Peter Leake, Alastair Paterson, Chris Phillips, Iain Phillips, Esther Revell, Alan West, Wendy West, Ursula Williamson, Ian Wilson. Approved by majority vote.
 15. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner for the 2020/21 financial year.
 - Ian Chafer is to be asked to continue. Proposed by Roger Edwards. Approved by majority vote.
 16. Election of President and Honorary Members.
 - President Ernie Williams proposed by Steve Chafer, approved by majority vote.
 - Proposed honorary members: Sam Lattaway, approved by majority vote.

Formal meeting closed at 8:13pm

Open Forum:

- Chris Phillips:
 - The 2020 CompassSport final will now not happen due the pandemic, however it is also likely that the 2020 finalist's will be asked to join the 2021 final.
 - The club's Winter League is already struggling with permissions, the league season may be an extended to help with scheduling events.
 - The East Midland Championships at Spring Cottage should be going ahead as planned.
- Steve Chafer:
 - Suggested that the club could look at a West Midlands Style MapRunF league.
 - Asked about if club members were happy continuing the Tuesday Zoom chats?
- John Marriott shared his mapping efforts of Bennion Pools.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm

Chairman's Statement 2020 AGM

This year's Chairman's report may be somewhat different to previous years as indeed this year has been very different to the previous 50 years of the clubs existence. But as is tradition I will aim to be brief and focus on the main points.

2020 should be a time of celebration for the club in our 50th anniversary year, but as you are all more than aware the COVID 19 global pandemic has played havoc with our day to day lives and for the sport. Fortunately we were able to run some events in the past few months and complete our Anniversary club champs last weekend and provide a 50th anniversary memento to all club members that attended. Congratulations to Andy Glover and Alison Hardy who were the Men's and Women's champions respectively and to all other champions for 2020.

Despite the pandemic and the lockdown for a number of months it has still been an active 12 months.

In terms of the day to day running of the club there have been regular meetings of the club committee and executive, although latterly these have been via Zoom with the primary focus on the return to the sport. We did not hold a committee meeting in May which was cancelled due to the pandemic and lack of any activities at that time and similarly event and development sub-committee meetings have been disrupted. The meetings will continue via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

Despite the limited number of events earlier in the year and very much relying on the profits from last year's British Sprints and continued donations and gift aid our club finances are still in a strong position as the Treasurer will shortly report. Membership levels are again down from the previous year and continue to be a concern especially with a lack of activities possible for juniors at this time. It is unlikely that we will get a clear picture of the effect of the pandemic on our membership numbers for a while yet, although we have seen 7 new club members join since lock down. So it looks like we are seeing some benefits from national promotional activities.

Even before the pandemic we had a number of events cancelled due to the extreme weather conditions with Aylestone cancelled due to flooding and Martinshaw due to high winds. I would just like to share a quote from our events coordinator posted on the website concerning the rearranging of the Martinshaw event. I am pleased to confirm that all the arrangements for this event are now in place and subject to pestilence, plague and flood it will be going ahead on 5th April 2020. This was posted 7 days before we went in to the national lockdown!

Fortunately earlier in the year we did manage to complete the 2019/2020 Winter League. Ed De Salis Young taking the overall win and Ursula Williamson taking the Ladies trophy. Congratulations to both.

The Annual club presentation dinner took place at a very well attended event at Longcliffe Golf Club. It was very good to see both old and new members at the event. Of the three main awards, the Chairman's Tankard was awarded to Iain Phillips for his excellent work planning the British Champs, The Presidents Salver was presented to Andy Portsmouth for his work in the year on Permission with the main award the Tiger trophy being presented to Alastair Paterson for his significant contribution

to the club over the years, most of which has been undertaken quietly in the background without any fuss or complaint.

The undisputed highlight of the year was undoubtedly the win in the Compass Sport Cup heat. LEI securing a 10 point win over WAOC at Apsley Heath. This was fantastic effort and great turnout from club members. Many thanks to Esther for organising the team as Club Captain. Unfortunately whether we will ever see the final is completely different question. Although with the 2021 heats already in doubt there may be a possibility of having a final for the 2020 qualifiers in 2021. We will have to wait and see how that works out. It just goes to show what we can do as a club if we put our minds to it, especially with the promise of a free entry!

As we are aware British Orienteering announced on March 17th the day after the CSC heat that all orienteering activities in the UK had to be suspended and LEI cancelled all events and activities until further notice.

As with most things during the early stages of lockdown, it took a while for people and the club to understand and start to adapt to the new restrictions. However it did not take long for club members to start to embrace technologies such as MapRun. Within two weeks of the relaxation of the restrictions the club was already offering socially distanced training activities through the Up and Out initiative, the online Sprint Planning competition and through the summer expanding MapRun to cover many of our local sites. Many thanks go out to all involved in putting these activities together and getting the club up and out.

Certainly looking at how the club nights have evolved and the virtual orienteering courses MapRunF certainly looks to have a significant part to play in the future of orienteering in one form or another.

Special thanks go out to Esther and all involved for setting up the club social calls during this time. The calls proved and continue to be a very important link in the continued communication for club members at this time and especially for those who were self-isolating at the time or locked down in Leicester. Thanks also to those who provided quiz questions during this time, some of which I have to say I still didn't really understand even when I had the answers.

With the further lifting of restrictions LEI held our first socially distanced event at Dishley Grange 4th August, with simplified controls, timings and a return to control cards. Naturally the events were very low key and cautious at first as we learnt to live and adapt to what was possible during this time. This initial event was quickly followed with a reduced summer league of 7 events, with the final event under almost "normal" conditions at Beacon Hill in September. Thanks to all planners and organisers and congratulations to James Rogers and Maureen Webb for topping the results this year.

Unfortunately there have been a few members of the club have not felt comfortable with return to competition under the new restriction and a few have decided to step away from the sport for the time being. Bob Haskins and Andy Portsmouth both long term members of the club and of the committee in a variety of the rolls will be stepping down this year. I would like to thank both for their hard work and commitment over the years and hopefully we will see them again soon back orienteering. Laurie Fluck has also stepped away from competition but will remain as equipment officer and as a member of the committee. I would also like to thank Peter Hornsby for looking after the SI equipment for the last 10 years and also for providing a large proportion of the archive

material for the 50th anniversary newsletter and the maps for the club champs last week. We are still looking for a permanent replacement for the SI kit management and would welcome any volunteers for this role.

All in all it has been a very challenging year for everyone involved in the club.. Possibly not the best year to take over but as club chair, but I am very thankful for all the support given to me and other club officials over the last 12 months.

Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes my report.

Chairman – Steve Chafer

President's Remarks 2020

Good Evening Colleagues – in the circumstances that that we find ourselves in it is good to be able to be positive and to have have the opportunity to say, on behalf of all the membership, a very big 'Thank You', to Steve, to our other Officers, and to those on the Club Committee and Sub-Committees, not forgetting the Coaches' and 'Helpers' at Events and Activities, for the work and enthusiasm that has been shown and is continuing to be shown in these difficult times.

There has been much happening around us all that is worrying, stressful, and disturbing, such that the opportunities that have been taken to maintain an on-going commitment to arrange Events and Activities not only for our members but also those from Clubs in other Regions should be applauded.

There have been disappointments, the main one already mentioned being not being able to take part in our 50th Anniversary Year, in the Final of the CompassSport Cup at Sutton Park, but made up for by holding our Club Championships on the now-free day and to enjoy, I trust that is the right word, the chance to orienteer on, for however short, or maybe long a time, on maps of the 1970s and 1980s and present day all at one Event, and receive a memento handed over at the Finish.

I have personally received on behalf of the Club the sincere thanks and plaudits of competitors and, as one West Midlands Club member put it, "LEI have showed how to put on a really good Event within the constraints of Covid-19 and other Clubs need to do the same - the LEI way!".

However difficult it may be for all of us in the weeks and months ahead to continue to keep up the good work seen and experienced in the past year, we have the leadership, and our support for those making and taking the difficult decisions for our Club has to continue, and to keep our Club aiming consistently for the heights in the next twelve months and beyond.

On that note I would like to propose that Steve Chafer continues as our Chair for the forthcoming year and to wish both him and all who work for the continued good of our Club the very best wishes, and to keep safe and stay strong.

President – Ernie Williams

Chairman's View for 2020

At this time it is traditional for the chairman to take a look at the year ahead picking out key events activities and plans, with at least with some level of certainty that these events may actually happen. As we all know we are currently not in that situation. I am therefore not going to try and use my crystal ball and predict what will happen in the coming year, but at least I can try and focus on the very short term future or at least as things stand today.

Looking at upcoming events unfortunately the winter league has already been hit with access issues with both Leicester City and Charnwood councils denying access to areas. However all being well we will be kicking off the league at Burbage Village this weekend, (The entries are now full) we then have a series of events running through to February .

Our next major event will be the East Midland Championships at Hanging Hill, Boothorpe and Pick Triangle on the 22nd November. Plans for the event appear to be progressing very well despite the restrictions which is very encouraging. This will be followed by the Level C event at Bagworth. I am sure that the organisers will be looking for volunteers shortly to support these events.

Follow on from the AGM we have the first committee meeting of the year on the 9th November again via Zoom. With an uncertain future we will need to focus on our short term goals and objectives and also look to re-establish the sub-committee activities on events and development. I am pleased that subject to approval today that Alastair Paterson has agreed to join the committee this year.

We have a lot to consider in the new world. Finding our feet adapting and to ever changing conditions. Access Permissions will continue to be a major issue and I would like to thank Maureen Webb for taking on the permissions role for the coming year from Andy Portsmouth.

There are other new items to consider this year, the use of online entry systems for all events, the potential cost of refunds. Further impacts of increased COVID measures under the new tier system.

Finding a way to exploit the work done on MapRUN and VOCs and other technology is going to be an important part of way forward and our return to normality.

Since the restart of club nights the attendance has been good with club members looking for a more regular run. We will need to look at how we continue to adapt Club nights to meet our members needs . We also need to consider our juniors, unless supported by competing parents it is going to be difficult to have any specific junior activities for a while.

In the last six months we have all found ourselves under increased pressure from lockdown, furlough, job losses and general uncertainty about the future.

It is clear to me and most people in orienteering that our sport can be a great force for good in these times. We are an outdoor, individual sport that supports social distancing, providing both a physical and mental workout.

The benefits of exercise on mental health are well known and I for one have never really taken the subject of mental health seriously until now. In fact I would have probably been one of the people

the telling you to pull yourself together or man up if someone was seen to be struggling. However I have to say that I have found the return to orienteering through its various new forms and guises

has given me a real lift and helped me personally in managing the stress of the new normal of day to day life. I guess I did not realise how much I rely upon it.

As I mentioned earlier we unfortunately had a small number of our members who have chosen to take a break from orienteering at this time, which I fully understand, however on a positive note we have also managed to recruit 7 new members despite being in lockdown. It was really encouraging to have so many questions from members of the public at Burbage last weekend interested in what we were doing. How we capitalise on this interest is always going to be the challenge.

As a sport we face major uncertainties moving forward. As you may have seen from Peter Harts update, BOF faces major financial challenges and as we are all too well aware ourselves access, cost of access and the restriction on competition numbers is a very big challenge.

While our financial situation is currently still in a good state, we face all the same issues as every other club in the country. Planning a budget, scheduling events for the coming year, let alone individual events with any level of certainty of them going ahead is proving a major headache for all involved. Whether it is event coordination, organisation, planning, mapping or finance we all face major challenges.

We are very fortunate to have a very dedicated and experienced group of core volunteers in the club. At this time of uncertainty and increased stress levels I want to make sure that as a club and individuals we do not put any undue stress or pressure on anyone volunteering within the club and fully support members in their roles and the decisions we make as a club, even if we may not individually agree with the decisions made at the time. I for one want orienteering to continue to be my release from stress and not to add to it.

The coming year is possibly going to be even more challenging than last year, with restrictions likely to change on a weekly basis. So please let's all support each other, be constructive and positive in our suggestions and hopefully we will come out of the current crisis in a strong and positive space.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen that concludes my comments.

Chairman – Steve Chafer