



Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Leicestershire Orienteering Club held on Monday 25th October 2021 at the Glenfield Parish Rooms, Stamford St., Glenfield, LE3 8DL

Present:

Steve Chafer, Roger Phillips, Chris Phillips, Simon Ford, Roy Denney, Ursula Williamson, Roger Edwards, Peter Chick, Alan West, Wendy West, Maureen Webb, Kevin Gallagher, Chris Bosley, Bob Titterington, David Cladingboel, Laurie Fluck, Iain Phillips, Simon Starkey, Alastair Paterson, Peter Leake, John Marriott, Ernie Williams, Bob Haskins, Derek Herd

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence:
 - Libby Barber, Jane Dring-Morris, Esther Revell, Peter Hornsby
2. Declaration of membership numbers:
 - Juniors: 23, Seniors: 106, Total voting membership: 129.
3. Approval of minutes of the AGM held on Monday 26th October 2020 were agreed to be a true record.
4. Matters arising from the minutes:
 - No matters arising.
5. Chairman's Report on the past year:
 - see attached report "Chairman's Statement 2021 AGM".
6. Treasurer's report and Budget for coming year:
 - The Treasurer noted that we have nearly £15,000 in the bank and made a surplus of £3.00 on the year.
 - The Treasurer also noted that we made a loss of £600 on our events and our gift aid was only 20% of the previous year.
 - The Treasurer reported that the summer league had been extraordinarily successful, but had high fixed costs we weren't able to recover all these by running Level D events.
 - The Treasurer noted that the budget for the coming year shows a loss on events and activities and that our earlier events are running below projections. The new committee will need to consider what action will be needed in the longer term.
 - Simon Ford asked if the club is vulnerable to changes in gift aid?

- The Treasurer reported that previous adverse changes to the gift aid scheme had only lasted two weeks.
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:
- proposed by Chris Phillips, seconded by Roy Denney and approved by majority vote.
9. Report of any amendments to the Club Standing Orders.
- The Chairman reported that there were no amendments in the last 12 months, but are currently being updated.
10. Club membership fees for 2023:
- Roger Edwards proposed no change to the current membership fee.
 - Roger Edwards noted that the membership fee nominally covers the cost of the club newsletter, currently around £600.
 - David Cladingboel proposed a £5.00 for seniors.
 - Chris Bosley proposed that the committee should be authorised to reduce the senior fee, if the committee felt it was warranted. The senior fee should be set at £5.00.
 - Proposal from Chris Bosley: for 2023 membership fees, that there should be no changes to fees for juniors, Senior fees set as £5.00 and newsletter member fees stay the same, with the committee authorised to reduce the fees if required. Approved by majority vote. (LEI membership fees for 2023, Junior £0.00, Senior £5.00 and other classes, non-LEI members who receive a copy of the LEI News, £6.00)
11. President's remarks and election of Chairman:
- see attached report "President's Remarks 2021". Steve Chafer elected as Chair.
12. Chairman's outline of the coming year.
- see attached report ""Chairman's View for 2022"
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: Simon Ford, approved by majority vote.
14. Election of executive committee
- Libby Barber, David Cladingboel, Roger Edwards, Derek Herd, 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 2021/22 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: Zoe Sewter (National Forest), approved by majority vote.

Formal meeting closed at 8:38pm

Open Forum:

- Steve Chafer: Junior recruitment has not been a priority during the 18 months because of the pandemic. Any thoughts on how the club addresses recruiting juniors?
- Ursula Williamson: The EMOA junior squad have been meeting during the last 18 months either on Zoom or latterly as in person training.
- Ernie Williams: Roger Edwards does a lot of work with North West Leicestershire schools. Do we get any feedback from the school's event?
- Roger Edwards: The North West Leicestershire Schools event is likely to be the biggest in the country, but the schools are not interested in bringing students to any other events outside of school time.
- David Cladingboel: Students at school were reluctant to attend orienteering events outside of the school day. This was despite the school running an orienteering event as part of school sports day.
- Chris Phillips: SYO have a paid development officer to aid in the recruitment of juniors.
- Roger Edwards: A paid development officer, supported by the Orienteering Foundation will be discussed at a future committee meeting.
- Chris Phillips: Over the last 20 years, our club's success in recruiting and retaining juniors has been down to one person, Birthe Wilson.
- Bob Haskins: Running clubs struggle to recruit from Parkruns.
- Chris Phillips: Nationally numbers for orienteering events have not recovered from the pandemic.
- John Marriott: Is the reason for low numbers at our recent Level C events because they were urbans?
- Chris Phillips: No, other clubs are having low numbers for forest events too.
- Alastair Paterson: Does the club have any stats on the use of MapRun?
- Roger Edwards: Orienteers seem to use MapRuns, but not our POC's.

Meeting closed at 9:16pm

Chairman's Statement 2021 AGM

I am pleased to provide the chairs statement for 2021. As is tradition I will aim to be brief and focus on the main points.

First of all, I would like to say how nice it is to be holding the AGM face to face this year. I believe this is the first formal club meeting we have had together in one room since February last year, some 17 months ago.

When I presented the Chairman view for 2021 this time last year, I was at least hopeful that although we were experiencing difficulties with permissions, we would be able to put on a reduced winter league and even working with the restrictions the East Midland Championships at Hanging Hill, and Level C event at Bagworth.

Unfortunately, in the end we only managed one event following the 2020 AGM at Burbage village on the 30th October before the next lockdown came into force and closed down of events for 6 months. Fortunately, we did eventually run the Bagworth event but it was delayed until 25th April 2021 and was our first event back after Lockdown 2 or 3? It also allowed the organiser of the event time to recover from his broken wrist.

Despite not starting events until late April, we have again had a very active last 6 months of the year. We held a full 17 event summer league, culminating in the BBQ and presentation at Aylestone Meadow in August. Unfortunately, we were still affected by Covid on the day with the majority of our award winners, being pinged by the contact tracing service during the event itself and having to miss the presentations. Many thanks as always to the events organising committee and to all the planners, organisers, mappers, helpers that created a very enjoyable and varied programme throughout the summer. and in no small part resulted in attendance numbers being up around 10 per event on previous years. Congratulations to our main summer league winners Ursula Williamson and Andy Glover. Thanks also the Alastair, Kevin for sorting out the results. We have already discussed a revised schedule to make the final event less painful for the results team next year.

Entries and payment for events has been a major challenge this year with a couple of systems being used through the summer League, Online entry and advance payment seems to be the way ahead for all events but we need to find a solution that minimises back office admin and allows some form of entry on the day. While we know many orienteers like to plan well in advance, some do make last minute decisions based on the weather and we need to be able to accommodate these. The search continues, we are yet to find a solution that meets all of our needs,

One event that unfortunately we were not able to put on this year was the club awards dinner. I hope that we will be able to resume the event in the spring. It is the intention to present the winners trophies for the club champions of 2020 at this year's club championship at Boothorpe Woods in November. We have managed to track down most of the trophies, but please if you do have one and will not be at the event could you return these to me as soon as possible. We have made a decision not to award the main club trophies (Tiger Trophy etc) for last year at this time but will present these as normal at the club dinner in the spring.

Since the end of the league the club nights have started up again and will continue with a number of Mapruns and a quiz up until the Christmas Break. Undertaking a compass bearing exercise through a 12ft high maize field in the dark has to be one of my orienteering highlights of the year. Thanks to Derek and to all who have contributed to the club nights and setting up the Mapruns.

I had hoped to be here today with the Compass Sport Cup Trophy proudly on display, but I guess that was only a dream. However, we can at least say that it was our best performance at a CSC final ever (it being our only one) and we even managed to beat 2 teams. Hopefully it will not be our last appearance at this event. A big thank you to all who attended and especially to Esther for organising the team, sorting out the club tent etc. Unfortunately, Esther has decided to go out at the top and is stepping down as club captain this year. I would like to thank her for all her hard work over the last 2 years and especially for the organisation of the Zoom club social calls over the lockdown periods. I am pleased to say that Esther will be staying on as part of the club committee next year.

In terms of the day to day running of the club there have been regular meetings of the club committee, via Zoom with again the primary focus being on the return to the sport. We are now starting to get back to normality with the meeting schedule and the aim to hold meetings face to face from now on. I will be looking to have a discussion later this evening/ next committee about how we manage the meetings for the coming year with respect to zoom or face to face meetings with more potential restrictions in the offing.

As the treasurer will report shortly the overall accounts remain in a good position. But we are facing a number of challenges from increasing costs (everything from land access fees, insurance, to the cost of catering) The lack of major events revenues over the last 18 months and lower donations levels are a concern for the longer term funding.

As most of you will know Roger is also stepping down as treasurer after many years in the role (how many?) I would like to thank Roger for his hard work and diligence over the years that in no small part has led to and maintained the excellent financial health of the club. Fortunately, Roger will be staying on in his other committee/development roles which will be essential as we aim to re-establish and grow the club again after the pandemic.

2021 has allowed the club under the management of Jane Dring-Morris to review the club standing orders. This has been no small task. Jane has reached out to members involved in all the major activities of the club and updated the main roles, responsibilities and the huge amount of processes that needs to be undertaken to run a club today. While this is still a work in progress and yet to be signed off. I would like to thank Jane for her work on this. I hope Jane will be able to provide a very brief update on progress when we come to the agenda item on the standing orders.

Overall membership levels are stable. We have seen a number of new members joining and actively participating in events which has been really good. It has also been very good to see the return of a number of members in recent months following a break due to the pandemic. The lack of activities and opportunities for juniors over the last 18 months remains a concern. It was a decision made to focus club activities on adults last year but it is something we should look to address in 2022.

As a club we are fortunate to have such a capable body of members who make the running of the club pretty straight forward. We have emerged out of the pandemic (hopefully) relatively unscathed

as a club and I would like to you all for the continued support you give to the club, without which we would not be able to function.

Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes my report.

President's Remarks 2021

Good evening, and starting on a personal note, Wendy and myself will, to use an elderly phrase, 'Be up with the lark' tomorrow as I have managed to get us two 'Covid-19 Booster Vaccination' appointments within Charnwood rather than N-W Leicestershire – how strange that would have sounded if I had said it in mid-March 2020 when LEI had just succeeded in making it for the first time to the CompassSport Cup Final to be held at Sutton Park but then. . . . !

Difficult and, for many throughout the UK and the wider world beyond our shores, traumatic and sorrowful times, and yet it can be said "What a year – or more accurately – what a year and a half and what a team"!

In the demanding and changing circumstances we had the quiet and steady leadership of Steve Chafer as our Chair, ably supported by Jane Dring-Morris as our Vice-Chair, the final year as our Treasurer for Roger Edwards, and the adaptability required of Roger Phillips as Secretary, together with the continuing support and various activities and work of the Committee members, and that of the membership generally, particularly with regard to the organising, planning, mentoring, and controlling of Local and Regional Events and Leagues, led by Chris Phillips and Ursula Williamson, together with the implementation and spreading opportunities for using technology such as 'Map Run' – as I have just remarked - "What a team"!

Leap through the months since March 2020 and just over a week ago the singular opportunity for members of all ages and levels of ability to take an active part in the CompassSport Cup Final – not just an opportunity but also what a privilege to be able to say "I was there as part of the LEI team!", albeit not at Sutton Park, or at a possible second venue within Cannock Chase, but at SYO's Hesley and Parkin Woods and the never-to-be-forgotten variety of bell-pits and depressions. On the day my personal thanks, which I am sure will be echoed by those members who also took part, to Roger Edwards for handling the finances, to Esther Revell as our Club Captain for her role in 'rallying the troops' and her very positive emails encouraging participation, to the Club members who carried the Club Tent to the Finish 'Run-in' area and then dismantled it at the end of the day and carried it back, uphill, to the car park, and to Ursula for her very much appreciated home-made 'Flapjack' and 'Ginger Biscuits' – on another personal note it was indicated, and I checked, that Bob Titterington and myself were, within the 116 competitors on Course 7 M70+/W60+, the two oldest with 1942 as our birth years, so the current M80s will have another competitive M80 in their midst in 2022 – I am, of course, referring to Bob and not to myself! Overall, what memories and, hopefully, better luck next time!

Our personal histories and that of our Club continue to be intertwined and made in various ways, and long may this continue, not just for the next twelve months, but in the years still ahead for not only us but also for those who will discover the joys – and occasional frustrations – of a real outdoor sport for all ages and abilities.

Ladies and gentleman – thank you, and I now ask you to support the election of our Chair, Steve Chafer, for the forthcoming year 2021-2022.

Ernie Williams

Chairman's View for 2022

I hope but I am not totally convinced that my look ahead at 2022's key events and activities will be more accurate than my look ahead to 2021 but at least I can try.

As I mentioned earlier Roger Edwards will be stepping down as Treasurer at today's AGM and I am very pleased to say that Simon Ford has agreed to take on the position. While Simon will be new to the treasurer role, he naturally brings a significant amount of experience from many years supporting the club.

I am also pleased to confirm that David Cladingboel has agreed to join the committee this year and will also take on the club captain's role from Esther. While being relatively new to the club David brings a genuine enthusiasm for the sport and has already proven to be excellent in supporting events and activities of the club.

I would like to thank both Simon, David and Derek Herd who will be replacing Laurie Fluck (Laurie will stay on as equipment officer) on the committee and I am sure that you will all join me in offering our support to all of them as they take on these new roles within the club.

I think that we all hope that we can get back to business as usual in 2022. As you all know significant work has already been put in to look at the event schedule for the rest of 2021 and moving in to 2022 and I would like to thank the all the members of the events committee for their continued excellent work in these challenging times.

The winter league will be starting this weekend, with the first event at Brocks Hill and continuing through to mid February possibly at Western Park (depending on how much they want us to pay as a deposit).

Preparations are well underway for the Club Championships along with the EMOA league event at Boothorpe and Hanging Hill. This will be followed with the Club presentations after the event. Permissions have also been granted for use of the Outwoods and Nanpantan Sports ground/ car park for the EMOA event on the 12th December.

With the rest of the schedule for 2022 still in the planning, we will be experiencing a handing over of the events baton through the year. At next year's AGM Chris and Ursula will be stepping down as events and minor events coordinators. We are all aware of the massive amount of time and effort that both have put in to the club and specifically around the event activities, which the club is very grateful for. However, they haven't stepped down yet and there is a lot of organising and volunteering that needs to be done for 2022 and I am sure as always you will all support them.

As I mentioned there will be a handing over of the baton and I am pleased to say that Iain Phillips and Jane Dring-Morris will take on the roles of events coordinator and minor events coordinator next year. I just need to say Iain and Jane that it is not compulsory to get married as part of the job.

It looks like it will be a busy time for Iain over the next couple of year as LEI will be organising the JK 2024 sprint event at Loughborough University with Iain agreeing to be the sprint event day organiser. I am not sure if we have confirmed a planner yet but we expect to have that confirmed in

the near future. This is an excellent opportunity for LEI to once again show what we can do as a club on a national level as well as being a significant source of revenue for the club. I am sure that our new Treasurer will be glad to hear that. I am sure you will all support Iain and the club in this.

We are the host club for this year's Yvette Baker trophy final which will take place at Irchester in July. Whether we are in a position to provide a junior team for the competition is an area for concern. While we have not been able to support juniors over the last 18 months, it is an area that we must try to look to readdress this year. As we know it is always difficult to attract juniors without the help of supportive parents, so it is not going to be a simple task and needs some serious thought, possibly through continued links with schools. After all they must be doing something with all the maps that are being created for them

Following on from the AGM we have the first committee meeting of the year on the 8th November at Brookvale/Groby learning campus. I would like to see how this goes with a view to either moving fully back to face to face meetings or a mixture of Zoom and face to face meetings.

The first development committee meeting is provisionally down for the 6th of December.

I am looking forward to the year ahead with optimism, undoubtedly, we are going to face continued issues with access to areas, permissions etc (I am sure Maureen will continue her excellent work here in support of the club), along with increasing costs and other challenges but we should be extremely proud of what we achieved as a club in 2021 I know I am. I am sure that we can take this can do, positive attitude forward in to 2022 and beyond.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen that concludes my comments.