

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of 31st A.G.M held on Wednesday 25th October 2000 at 7.30 p.m.at the Territorial Army Barracks, Catherine Street, Leicester

Attending: David Anderson, Sue Bicknell, Kevin Bradley, Andy Portsmouth, Diane Ford, Simon Ford, Roy Denney, Chris Bosley, Ernie Williams, Peter Leake, Kevin Gallagher, Maureen Webb, Robert Kerr, Thelma Spalton, David Brown, Peter Hornsby, Roger Kelly.

1) Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Dave Hall, Jean Hall, Margaret Anderson, Gerry Spalton, Mike Luxton, Chris Phillips, Roger Phillips, Roger Edwards, John Cooke, Judith Holt, Tony Vance

2) Declaration of membership numbers: The club has 120 voting member units and 10 or 8% forms a quorum - The meeting was therefore declared quorate.

3) Approval and signing of minutes of last extraordinary general meeting: The minutes were amended to say that Ernie Williams seconded a motion, not Chris Bosley as recorded, and then they were approved as a true record to be signed by the Chairman. Thelma will forward the original to Roy for signing.

4) Matters arising from those minutes: None

5) Chairman's Report: The Chairman opened by stating that he wished to thank all the members who had served on committee for their valuable support during the three years of his Chairmanship.

This had been a busy period largely due to the time he had been able to put into the role and he felt it was now perhaps time for a period of consolidation but that this was entirely up to the new Chair and Committee.

The successful lottery bid had put a large burden on a few members but the end result was that the Club now has a substantial number of new maps, healthy finances, several new areas and hopefully, soon, a good number of permanent courses which should encourage more participation and new entrants into the sport.

As for events, we had had the usual complement of Colour Coded ones, including first events on new areas and many new maps for which he would wish to compliment and thank all concerned.

We successfully staged one of, if not the actual first, badge event under the new ranking scheme and organised a very well received regional event for the CompassSport Cup. Thanks are therefore particularly due to Gerry Spalton for

mastering the complexities of the new results requirements and to Peter Hornsby for his excellent planning of the event at Wakerley.

With thanks due to Chris Phillips and his team of organisers we had another successful and diverse summer league. The restricted courses colour coded event on New Years Day was well supported and blessed with as good weather as we saw all year and we held our usual Christmas novelty event, followed by a super buffet at Hinckley Rugby Club which will be hard to better. Thanks for this are due to Roger Kelly.

Socially we held our annual dinner with record numbers attending, a quiz night and a treasure hunt.

Since the last AGM Tony Vance has taken on the role of Social Secretary but we have spent the year without anyone specifically looking after Training & Coaching and whilst Jean Hall has done an excellent job with schools orienteering we have not had a Junior Development Officer. We now have a volunteer in Eric Porter to take on coaching and a member considering the role with juniors.

Tony will be looking at ideas for a social programme for next year but our quiz should be repeated towards the end of March, just before the start of the summer league and other suggestions on the table at present include Skittles or Petanque evenings. Other ideas will be most welcome.

One black spot during last year was the lack of a quorum at the last Annual General Meeting and the Chairman said that he must press members to support the organisation and enable the committee to provide the programme that they all wish to see.

Looking to the future there are major changes afoot in the organisation of the sport which members would have an opportunity to discuss later in the meeting.

Once any new structure is confirmed and BOF's ideas on the role of the Regional Associations is decided the club will have several choices to make not least involving funding.

There are several different suggestions which have been aired within the club but as we do not know as yet, the final outcome of deliberations elsewhere we cannot come to any decisions.

The Treasurer had outlined the possible financial implications in the newsletter and we would be asking him to develop them later in the meeting but other suggestions had been raised which the Chairman touched upon to give members food for thought and possibilities for discussion later in the meeting.

The Chairman personally would not wish us to alienate 'club only' members by a large hike in their fees which could arise if we all become members of BOF.

Several ideas have been voiced as to how to avoid this. It had been suggested that all members have their membership fees reduced broadly to equate to what

the 'club only' members pay at present with the balance of the funding being raised from event charges. This would have the advantage of reducing the cost of joining the club and might help to persuade those regular summer leaguers who are not members to then join.

It had however been pointed out that we have some members who never attend any club events but are merely registered with us by accident of where they live and that if we did so reduce these members subscriptions we would be subsidising their orienteering. We could also be a bit of a hostage to fate relying on event charges to cover essential expenses.

A compromise which had been suggested was that if we all have to pay much the same as full members pay now the cost of the increase could be mitigated by giving members vouchers entitling them to free entry into some club events below badge status. This would encourage participation but members who already regularly attend would then be getting a reduction on what they pay now. However as these are usually the people who normally help at events and often get a free run anyway it should not cost the club much.

Another area the Chairman wished to see discussed later was what role members think the EMOA should have in this brave new world, which was of course of particular interest to him as the new Chairman of EMOA.

Members will ultimately make the final decisions at a future general meeting but Roy expressed the view that the wider we can open out the debate in the meantime the more the views of the whole membership can be assessed.

One last task fell to him in closing his review of the past year and that was the award of the Tiger Trophy to the member he felt had contributed most to the club this year.

Many members are unsung heroes turning out regularly in all weathers to help with events and your committee work tirelessly to provide you with the support and programme you enjoy and it is a challenge to pick one from this crowd. Many continue to do excellent work for the club and he felt that if he identified individuals for particular comment it almost belittled the performances of those he did not mention and as such he would restrict himself to comment on the member he had decided to award the trophy to this year.

Whilst only recently having joined the committee Peter Leak had assumed the role of Club Delegate and had taken on the role of Permanent Courses Co-ordinator and as such was in the Chairman's opinion, very worthy of this award.

Roy closed his address by commenting that it merely remained for him to wish his successor well and to offer his continued support.

6) Matters arising from Chairman's Report : None

7) Treasurers report and budget projections for coming year: The treasurers report was distributed. The financial situation is similar to 1998/9 except for

committee expenses increasing due to more travelling being necessary and payment towards the web site. Map stocks based on cost, but the printing has been more economical due to combining maps so they are worth more.

Budget Projections for 2000: There were no large events due for 2001 but only 1 print run of 4 maps was anticipated to cost approx. £500. £2,000 was due for payments towards electronic punching. A small deficit was made because of expenses set against last year's lottery grant. Chris proposed an increase in event fee of 50p.

8) Auditors Report: The auditors report has still to be received (*subsequently presented to the committee at the meeting on 15th November - see financial report on next page - ed.*). Thanks were expressed to Lewis Sutton, who has audited the finances for the last 19 years. It was agreed that he should have his club membership fees paid for 2001.

9) Matters arising from Treasurers Report: None.

10) Approval of Accounts: Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Andy Williams and seconded by Simon Ford. The motion was carried unanimously.

11) President's remarks: Ernie thanked Roy for his Chairmanship and the enthusiasm he put into the task. Roy has now been elected as Chairman of EMOA.

12) Election of Chairman: Simon Ford was proposed by Roy Denney and seconded by Ernie Williams.

13) Election of other Principal Officers: Thelma Spalton as Secretary and Chris Bosley as Treasurer had each been nominated by Roy Denney and seconded by Chris Philips. They were elected unanimously. No nominations had been received for Vice Chair.

14) Election of Committee: Kevin Bradley, Andy Portsmouth, Robert Kerr, Chris Philips, Roger Kelly, Pete Leake, Mike Luxton, Tony Vance, Jean Hall, Dave Hall, Judith Holt, John Cooke had been proposed by Roy Denney and seconded by Chris Philips and had all expressed a willingness to serve on the committee although not all able to attend meetings on a regular basis. Kevin Gallagher, Eric Porter and Peter Hornsby all carried out roles for the club and had been proposed for the committee, by Roy Denney and seconded by Ernie Williams, although some probably only attending when relevant to their respective roles. All were duly elected.

15) Election / adoption of Auditor: Lewis Sutton was willing to continue and was duly elected

16) Election of President, Honorary Members: Ernie Williams was nominated to continue as President by Roy Denney, seconded by Chris Bosley and was unanimously elected.

Tim Maydwell, who is the Head Ranger of Watermead Country Park and Burrough Hill, was elected as an honorary member.

17) Club Fees for coming year: The Treasurer had proposed that new event fees be set for the new year and after discussion in committee the proposition had the support of the retiring committee. It was proposed that One-off events such as Badge and Midland Night Championships events be decided upon based on the anticipated cost of the event and the cost of comparable events. The event organisers and the club treasurer were to investigate and make recommendations to the committee 6 months in advance of the event. Fees for regular Colour Coded events (C4, N4, S4) were to be: Independent Senior £4 (previously £3:50) BOF or Club Senior £3 (Previously £3:50) Reduced (OAP, UB40, Student) £1.50(Unchanged) Juniors (under 21) £1.50 (Unchanged) Helpers to remain free. Informal events (Summer League, C5, N5, S5) to remain unchanged (£1.50 seniors / 50p juniors). Dave Anderson suggested that Summer league should be priced separately to Night events and Come and Try it events and fees at CATIs should be based on the colour of the courses. He suggested that White, Yellow and Orange courses should be half price to encourage newcomers. This proposal will be considered at a following committee meeting. The other proposals were adopted unanimously. The Treasurer proposed that the club membership part of BOF fee and the club only membership fee be increased by for the new year. Membership fees for the coming year to be as follows:

	Senior	Junior	Family	Group
BOF	10.00	2.60	14.50	8.20
EMOA	6.00	2.00	9.00	11.00
LEI	4.00	1.00	4.00	4.00
Total	20.00	560	27.50	23.20
LEI Club only	7.00	1.00	7.00	7.00

The proposal for these fees was passed unanimously.

18) New BOF/EMOA structures: BOF restructuring was now back on the table. EMOA had invested £9,000 in electronic punching, including a grant of £5,000 from the lottery. This was mainly spent on controls and e-cards for hire. James Allen of DVO has volunteered to look after the equipment. It will be hired to each club when required (£185 for Badge events and £125 for C4s, Free for C5s, Training and coaching events.) All 96 units will have to move en bloc with 150 hire cards. The software licence must be bought by each club but Mike Napier is writing his own version which will be cheaper to EMOA clubs. Batteries have a 1 year life span, other parts 4 years. Clubs will be responsible for any losses (£75 per unit).

19) AOB: Kevin Bradley may be able to negotiate a deal with Panasonic for laptop computers to be used with electronic punching.

Mike Luxton won an award from EMOA to promote Orienteering with Forces Groups.

A new Finish clock is needed, but we have not been able to locate a suitable one.

The meeting closed at 21:15 and was followed by a social evening and light buffet

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