



Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting of the Leicestershire Orienteering Club held on Monday 3rd November 2025 at Glenfield Parish Rooms, Stamford St., Glenfield, LE3 8DL

Present:

Roger Phillips, Alan West, Wendy West, Simon Ford, Steve Chafer, Ursula Williamson, Chris Phillips, Sue Bicknell, Kevin Gallagher, Peter Chick, Roger Edwards, Simon Starkey, Alastair Paterson, Peter Leake, Peter Hornsby, Ian Wilson, Iain Phillips, Ernie Williams, Andy Nicholls, David Cladingboel.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Apologies for absence.

- Jane Dring-Morris, Maureen Webb, Roy Denney, Matt White, Alison Hardy

2. Declaration of membership numbers.

- Junior: 12, Young Adults: 6, Senior: 95, Correspondent: 3 (non-voting).

Total voting membership 113.

3. Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on Monday 28th October 2024

- Three amendments were made. These were then agreed to be a true record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes.

- None.

5. Chairman's Report on the past year.

- The Chairman highlighted sections of his report.
- see the report "ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024/2025".

6. Matters arising from the Chairman's report.

- None.

7. Treasurer's report and Budget for coming year.

- The Treasurer reported that the club have shown an increase of £3,390 in funds.
- The Treasurer reported the club had received £3,000 income from the JK surplus.
- The Treasurer reported that the monies from gift aid continues to be a significant contribution to the club.

8. Matters arising from the Treasurer's report.

- Andy Nicholls asked about amount of the official's expenses in the club accounts.
- The Treasurer reported this was those costs not attributed to an event.
- Sue Bicknell asked if the club planned to increase event fees.
- The Treasurer reported that the club does plan to raise adult Level C event fees for 2026.
- Iain Phillips asked if map printing was attributed to event costs.
- The Treasurer reported that paper and ink were recorded under general costs.

9. Independent Financial Examiner's report.

- The accounts have been approved by the Independent Financial Examiner, Ian Chafer.

10. Approval of accounts.

- Approved by majority vote.

11. Report of any amendments to the Club Standing Orders.

- The Chairman noted that there was a minor change to the club standing orders in 2025. The change related to extending the club team event fees to include the Compass Sport Cup.

12. Club membership fees for 2027 and Correspondent membership fees for 2026.

- The Treasurer proposed no change to the current membership fee. Approved by majority vote.
- Fees for 2026: Correspondent - £0.00.
- Fees for 2027: Senior - £0.00, Young Adult - £0.00, Junior - £0.00 (*Note BOF fees are set before the club AGM*).

13. President's remarks and election of Chairman.

- see attached report "President's Remarks 2025".
- Chris Phillips elected as Chair.

14. Chairman's outline of the coming year.

- see attached report "Chairman's View for 2025".

15. 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.

16. Election of executive committee.

- Steve Chafer, David Cladingboel, Steve Edgar, Roger Edwards, Derek Herd, Iain Phillips, Alastair Paterson, Ursula Williamson. Approved by majority vote.

17. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner for the 2024/25 financial year.

- Ian Chafer is to be asked to continue. Approved by majority vote.

18. Election of President and Honorary Members.

- President Ernie Williams proposed by Steve Chafer, approved by majority vote.
- Proposed honorary member: Zoe Sewter (National Forest) proposed by Steve Chafer, approved by majority vote.
- Proposed honorary member: Roy Denney proposed by Steve Chafer, approved by majority vote.

Formal meeting closed at 8:31pm

Open Forum:

- Chris Phillips reported the club was putting up Level C fees to £10 for adults. This was to cover the expected rise in paper and ink costs.
- Steve Chafer asked if the club was planning on purchasing any new event kit.
- Chris Phillips suggested that the club should purchase about 40 new kites.
- Chris Phillips noted that the club requires a social media officer to help promote the club and its events.
- Peter Leake noted that club has a member who has competed at the Commonwealth Games and has run under a 4 minute mile.
- Peter Hornsby noted that the clubs first score was in 1976 and next year will be the 50th anniversary of the first one.
- Peter Hornsby reported that the new map for the club championships was completed with the aid of drone photography.

Meeting closed at 9:24pm.

President's Remarks 2025

Good Evening and a pleasure to be here with you. It is said "There is a tide in the affairs of men" - and women too Master Shakspeare - a time of change - and this AGM is, for Steve, our Chair for six years, an opportunity for a break – and a fully deserved one too!

Leadership can sometimes seem like a lonely place but an orienteering Club such as ours is one where there is always help, advice, and companionship – I'm sure that Steve will agree – and not for us the divide between the participants, the competitors, and those who officiate - in days gone by usually referred to as 'the suits' or 'the blazers'!

Many decades ago, in the 70s, I was invited, probably because I was active in the developing area of Public Examinations and also within my Professional Association, to take part in and study for an advanced 'Diploma in Educational Studies' at Leicester University and Leicester Polytechnic (now De Montfort University) – attending lectures, reading a lot of books from advised lists, writing a number of Dissertations, undertaking some research, and generally developing skills of benefit to my fellow professionals as well as myself.

One of the modules was 'Leadership – Administration and Organisation' – as you can imagine not all of the advised books 'lit my fire' so to speak, and I investigated further and found two quotable sources of insight, information, and interest – both, by the way, still in print and available today.

One was 'Leadership Skills of Attila the Hun' and the other 'Up The Organisation!' – in the former book author Wess Roberts describes circumstances and situations as Attila and his forces swept across Europe, in particular against the Roman Empire, and Atilla had a range of novel ways of not only maintaining commitment and discipline amongst his disparate forces but also, when required, as you can imagine, could show his displeasure at failure in usually painful and more often than not somewhat deadly ways!

In the latter book, autobiographical and written by Robert Townsend – initially memorable in that the cover of the original book had a hand emblazoned with the 'Stars and Stripes' making what we genteel British would describe as "A Churchillian gesture of defiance"! - he describes how he was appointed in the role of Chairman of a seriously ailing Transport Company that was described as "a basket case", and with lots of room for improvements expected from him as 'The New Broom'.

During the first months after his appointment he was criticised for appearing to do very little and not making the drastic changes that were hoped for but, as the first year progressed, he acted, sometimes gently, sometimes a little more forcefully, and transformative change for the better very steadily took place over the next few years. His leadership secret can be described as a mantra of "Look – Listen – Learn" and then act positively and decisively with everyone pulling in the right direction for the good of all, not just for some.

By the end of his five years with the Company it had been transformed to become the second biggest and reaching for the 'Number One' spot in North America - the Company was, by the way, Avis Rent-a-Car.

Steve in his time as our Chair has been a model of steadiness, quiet determination, and as someone willing to listen, and seek advice as and when required – one image that springs to mind is that of the stately swan gliding effortlessly on the surface of the river but who, in reality, is paddling like hell underneath! Steve – your time as our Chair is very much appreciated – Thank You!

Alongside other Officers and Committee Members Steve will, with our support, continue to work on behalf of not only our membership but for other orienteers regionally and nationally in the year ahead, so a very big 'Thank You' to all who have made and will make a contribution to the activities of the Club in the past, at present, and in the future.

Now, moving on to another stalwart member of the Club, definitely a committed volunteer – though I gather there might have been a little bit of arm-twisting - who can be relied upon to put our Club first and foremost at all times – I am asking that unanimous support is forthcoming for the nomination of Chris Phillips as the Chair of LEI for 2025-2026. Thank you.

Ernie Williams
3rd November 2025

Chairman's View for 2026

I would like to thank Steve for all the work that he has put in during his 6 years as chairman. I am personally very glad that he is remaining on the Committee as Permission Officer as that is a key role within the club.

Firstly, let me say that my main purpose as your chairman over the next two years is to find my successor and secondly to encourage more members of the club to become involved as event officials. I would like to return to these topics in the open forum after the end of the formal meeting.

With regard to the event programme 2026 might be described as an ordinary year with no major and national events currently in the programme. An ordinary year still leaves us with 35 events in the calendar. Which ranks us, including activities, as the 9th most active club out of 90 the clubs, in the British Orienteering Federation. As Steve mention in his report, we do punch above our weight.

As you will all have realised from that number events, the programme will include the Summer and Winter Leagues, events in both the EMOA leagues and the assorted extras like the Score Cup.

One of the major issues that the club is facing is a lack of mappers. We can, for the larger events, afford to employ professional mappers. That still leave a significant number of areas that need updating. If you feel you have a skill in that direction, Simon our mapping coordinator would love to talk to you.

Your executive committee is keen to increase the number of participants at events and attract new members. We feel that one of the ways to do that is to increase our participation on Social Media and to that end we are looking to appoint a social media officer for the club, to grow our presence on various social media platforms that we currently are not represented on. If there is anybody here to night who is interested or if you know of a club member with a flair for social media please let me know.

The Club Development programme will continue to run over the next year. I know that Roger Edwards is keen to find more planners for the Tuesday Night Map Run which is running throughout the Autumn. The Tuesday night sessions will return indoors in the New Year at Markfield. As we have a new coach in Matt White, we hope he will be able to share the coaching work load with Derek, Alastair and Chris who have been the mainstay of the adult coaching sessions for the last few years.

The schools events will be taking place in the Spring and I am sure that Roger Edwards will welcome a few more volunteers.

Whilst we have a quiet year in 2026, 2027 onwards looks quite busy. We had thought that we would be hosting the Midland Champs in 2027 but at the last minute SMOG have offered to host the event. However there are so many gaps in the National Programme that it is quite likely that we will have our arm twisted to stage one of those events. These could include a Compass Sport Cup Final and a British Sprint Relay.

2028 is going to be busy as we have already agreed to host, over one weekend, the British Night Championships and the Midland Championships. Work is already underway to lay the ground work for that weekend. As we have already been asked to consider hosting some major events in the years after 2028 we need to develop those of our younger members who will be taking over from our current qualified Level A Officials.

One final date for your diary. The Club Dinner and Awards Evening will be at Lingdale Golf Club on Saturday 7th March 2026.

2026 will be a year full of activity, a year to solve some problems and work to lead up to a few busy years head.

Chris Phillips

Chairman