Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting of the Leicestershire Orienteering Club held on Monday 26th October 2026 at Glenfield Parish Rooms, Stamford St., Glenfield, LE3 8DL

Present:

Chris Phillips, Simon Ford, Steve Edgar, Tracy Edgar, Sue Bicknell, Roger Phillips, Kevin Gallagher, Steve Chafer, David Cladingboel, Alan West, Wendy West, Iain Phillips, Roger Edwards, Alastair Paterson, Chris Bosley, Peter Chick, Ernie Williams, Simon Starkey.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. **Apologies for absence.**
    - Jane Dring-Morris, Maureen Webb, Ursula Williamson, Andy Nicholls,

2. **Declaration of membership numbers.**
    - Junior: 11, Young Adults: 2, Senior: 87, Correspondent: 3 (non-voting).

      Total voting membership 100.

3. **Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on Monday 3rd November 2025**
    - 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 2026".

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 £4,245 in funds.
    - The Treasurer reported that the monies from gift aid continues to be a significant contribution to the club and without gift aid the club would likely just break even.

8. **Matters arising from the Treasurer's report.**
    - David Cladingboel asked who uses the gift aid scheme.
    - The Treasurer noted it was only a couple of members that used the scheme.
    - Sue Bicknell asked about the payments made by the gift aid scheme.
    - The Treasurer noted that members were only eligible for travel more than two hours.
    - Sue Bicknell asked about clubs' surplus.
    - The Chairman noted surplus will be absorbed be the rise in map printing costs (ink and paper) and the future replacement of radios.
    - Roger Edwards asked about the quantity of stock in the club shop.

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 were no amendments in 2026.

12. **Club membership fees for 2028 and Correspondent membership fees for 2027.**
    - The Treasurer proposed no change to the current membership fee. Approved by majority vote.
    - Fees for 2027: Correspondent - £0.00.
    - Fees for 2028: 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 2026".
    - Chris Phillips elected as Chair.

14. **Chairman's outline of the coming year.**
    - see attached report "Chairman's View for 2026".

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 2026/27 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 Chris Phillips, approved by majority vote.
    - Proposed honorary member: Zoe Sewter (National Forest) proposed by Chris Phillips, approved by majority vote.
    - Proposed honorary member: Roy Denney proposed by Chris Phillips approved by majority vote.

Formal meeting closed at 8:27pm

Open Forum:

- Iain Phillips started the open forum with the club's future events plan.
- Chris Phillips noted that the club is hosting three Level A events in 2028.
- Steve Chafer asked about the ageing membership of the club and the future of other clubs in the region.
- Chris Phillips noted that BOF have mandated that clubs have a new role of a Safety Officer and the club will also have more safety rules to adhere too.

Meeting closed at 9:19pm.

President's Remarks 2025

As Robert Burns has written – instant apologies to the national 'Bard of Scotland' and the people of Scotland for saying his words in English and not in his original Scottish text of 1786 - *O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us To see oursels as ithers see us!* – as an extract from a piece of his poetic verse *"To A Louse, On Seeing One on a Lady's Bonnet at Church"* "Oh, would some Power the gift give us To see ourselves as others see us"! - and this thought was prompted by overhearing some visiting O-folk on the way from the Finish at an Event earlier this year say that "LEI is a very friendly Club isn't it" – I honestly don't think there was any emphasis or an implied question mark!

In this age when everything – albeit a person, a social celebrity, a business, a club – needs a slogan or blurb plus a logo to identify it, and especially relevant now when every Club needs to both attract and keep new members – this is a slight diversion but at some future opportunity I will leave you to guess at my reaction when speaking with health professionals of the major good points about our sport, like Peter Chick does in his excellent recent article of the positive aspects of having our sport linked with the NHS in supporting active physical and mental exercise in the town and the countryside for both body and mind, to have Orienteering described as "A minority and little known outdoor sport"!

Our minds would, I'm sure, immediately think of our Club and County symbol of a 'Fox', particularly when one of our neighbours has a series of Night MapRun Events this year which are currently on-going and labelled 'Urban Fox'! Also, somewhat unfortunately, not all phrases and sayings that have a 'fox' as the dominant subject are complimentary - there are examples such as:

As sly as a fox **–** very cunning and smart

A **fox in the hen house** **- a relationship, often used in a commercial or political sense, wherein a predator is granted free reign within the prey's home and, in reality, rather than guarding those inside will eat or destroy some or all of them**

A **fox asleep** **-** feigned sleep while actually alert

C**razy like a fox - b**ehaving in a foolish, frivolous, or uncomprehending manner as a ruse for concealing clever deeds or deeper intentions

To outfox someone **- to trick someone using clever thinking.**

Then again on the positive side there are sayings such as:

The fox's socks **- something or someone that is ideal or very pleasing**

As quick as a fox **- to be v**ery fast or alert

A silver fox **- an attractive grey haired person.**

Even **"slightly foxed"** is a polite bibliophile's phrase but with distinct hints of imperfection, and I am assured that there are a larger number of synonyms for the negative **'more foxed'** than there are antonyms for the positive **'less foxed'.**

So, how best to think about promoting LEI as 'The O-Club of choice' not only within the Midlands but further afield?

I'll start with a few and then I'm sure that our hard-working 'LEI News' Editors will be looking forward to the slogans from members that will be winging their way towards them for the website and to be in print!

How about…..?

'The small Club with the large range of Orienteering Events'

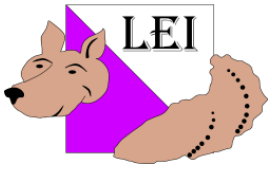
'LEI Events from 'Local' to 'Major' are held throughout the present and future years'

'LEI - Welcoming and friendly all the year round'

'Turn you passion for the great outdoors into real orienteering sports performance with LEI'

'Rock and Roll with the O-Sport Fox'

All in all as members of LEI we can be both proud and pleased that, as described by Chris, our Chair, we have had a successful year with a wide range of Events, podium places, and definitely keeping our Club, with the oversight of Simon, our Treasurer, very solvent and financially secure, and very much aided with the work of our Vice Chair Jane, and Club Secretary Roger, and Chris B for his regular website updates – and all actively supported by the members of the Club Committee and the two Sub-



Committees, together with the willing and helpful membership who both officiate and help at Events, whatever the weather, throughout the year, and I look to us all to keep up the good work and activities and to look towards another year, as I all too often put it, “of fresh air and fun, with the fresh air more or less guaranteed and the fun what you make it!”

I will now ask you to support the proposal for the appointment of Chris Phillips as our Chair for the forthcoming year 2026-2027 – thank you.

Ernie Williams, October 2026

Chairman's View for 2026

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The plans for 2027 and beyond

Given that we have had increasing numbers at events over the last few months there seems to be little or no reason to change our programme of events. Clearly what we are doing is what the membership wants.

Our winter league starts in a few weeks' time and will run until the end of February next year, by which time Jane will have organised the 2027 Summer League and many, if not all of you here tonight will have been arm twisted into planning and organising events.

Iain has, I know, already has the Regional Events programme on the BOF website and most of the event officials in place. For those of you with an inclination for such trials we will be including some Trail O events in the programme.

We continue to have the challenges of getting permission for events, despite Steve Chafers hard work. In some locations and for instance areas like Bradgate and Swithland, remain off limits to us because of restriction placed on the Landowner by Natural England.

As I hope you are all aware the 2028 event programme will be rather different as we are hosting the British Night Championships and the Midlands Championships over the weekend of 5th and 6th of February 2028 at Cademan and Wakerley and the Compass Sport Cup and Trophy Final on Sunday 15th October 2028 at the Grey Lodge and Martinshaw and Ratby Burroughs Woodlands.

A significant amount of the preliminary work has already been undertaken and more will be completed over the next few months before we are able to get down to the nitty gritty of organising these three large events. If you think that these events are a long way off, I should point out that for the British Nights we are expected to have all the outline details in place by March of next year so that the event website can to go live.

As the East Midlands Association is not able to put on any event officials training, we will be doing some inhouse training during 2027.

BOF have announced that there will be a major revision to the format of the General Rules as at 1st January 2027 and there will be significant changes to the rules regarding safety. This is a result of several serious incidents at events over the last few months, and some changes by the Government to Health and Safety Legislation. Clubs are now required to appoint a Club Safety Officer as one of the conditions for affiliation to the Federation.

From the information that has already been circulated by BOF I think its is quite likely that we will have a gathering of all event officials to review the changes and how we implement then with in the club.

One of our major challenges is development and recruiting. A small group of committee members will be reviewing our development plan in the next few weeks to update it and make any necessary changes.

Recruitment of new members continues to be a challenge. Other clubs report successful recruitment drives but closer inspection shows that whilst they have some initial success, the majority if not all, of their new recruits only stay in sport for a very short time.

As ever, the best method of recruiting is to bring along Friends.

There will be one change in Committee responsibilities after this evening. David Cladingboel will be taking over from Steve Chafer as Club Welfare Officer. My thanks to Steve for taking on this role for the last two years.

A date for your Diary for next year. After last year's very successful Club Dinner and Awards Evening at Lingdale Golf club we will be returning there on Saturday 13th March. The format of the meal will be the same as last year and the price will not have gone up by too much!

This is but an outline of what I expect to happen in the next year but as life as a habit of taking over the best laid plans there undoubtedly other items will appear in our programme.

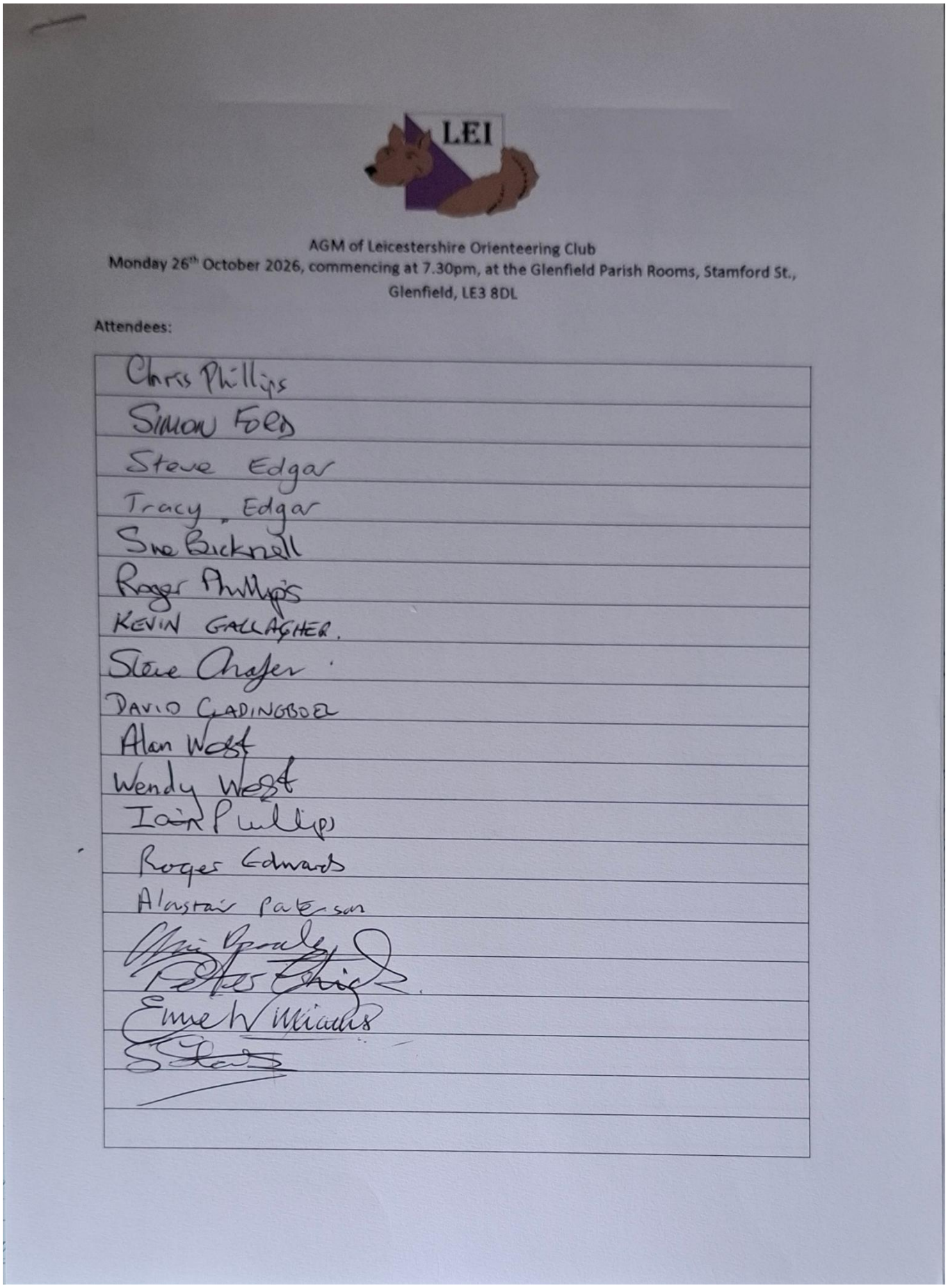
2027 will be a year full of activity, a year to solve some problems and work to lead up to a few busy years head.

Chris Phillips

Chairman

October 2026

Attendees 2026



AGM of Leicestershire Orienteering Club

Monday 26th October 2026, commencing at 7.30pm, at the Glenfield Parish Rooms, Stamford St., Glenfield, LE3 8DL

Attendees:

Chris Phillips
Simon Ford
Steve Edgar
Tracy Edgar
Sue Bicknell
Roger Phillips
KEVIN GALLAGHER.
Steve Chafer
DAVID GLADINGBOER
Alan West
Wendy West
Iain Phillips
Roger Edwards
Alastair Paterson
Emma Williams