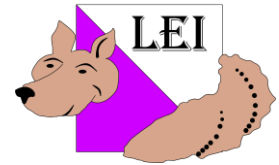


Leicestershire Orienteering Club



Minutes of Committee Meeting held online via Zoom Monday 11th May 2025

Present: Steve Chafer, David Cladingboel, Steve Edgar, Roger Edwards, Simon Ford, Derek Herd, Chris Phillips, Iain Phillips, Roger Phillips, Alastair Paterson, Ernie Williams, Ursula Williamson.

1. Apologies for absence: Jane Dring-Morris

2. Minutes of the last Committee Meeting on Monday 9th February 2026

These minutes were agreed to be a true record.

3. Items arising from the last MOM

- RP confirmed that Glenfield Parish Rooms had been booked for the AGM.
- RE confirmed he had been in touch with Cross Curricular, but not had a reply.
- CP reiterated the need for all committee members to read the updated BOF safeguarding policy.
- CP asked for views on the new club dinner venue. It was agreed that this was a suitable venue for 2027.

Action Points

- CP to look at the 2027 dinner to be held at Lingdale Golf Club

4. Request for inclusion in 'Urgent and important items' on the agenda

- No requests for inclusions in Urgent & important items.

5. Treasurer's Report

Please refer to the Treasurer's Report February 2026 circulated prior to the meeting.

- SF reported that the club has in current account £9,001 and have a further £9,000 in the deposit account.
- SC asked about the surplus from the Aylestone Meadows event and whether the cost of the parking impacted the surplus.
- SF suggested the surplus was around £250 from the Aylestone Meadows event.
- CP noted that the clubs event numbers have returned to pre-COVID levels and this is helping income.
- SF reported that the club's use of the Gift Aid scheme provides a reasonable income stream for the club.
- SF asked the committee for ideas for likely future costs to the club.
- CP reported that Kevin B would like to like replace the current download laptops and this should probably be added into a future budget.
- CP reported that the club's radios were starting to wear out and that the club should invest in some replacement radios and parts.

- SC asked if we need to buy a whole new set of radios rather than just replacement parts?
- CP noted that a newer model of our current radio is about £300.
- IP suggested that some of the range limits of the current radio sets could be solved with the purchase of a repeater/ base station.
- CP suggested that the club might need to invest in some replacement dippers as Si are no longer supporting older dippers.
- RE suggested that the club probably had enough dippers, as for the larger events that require hire dippers, we usually hire in.
- UW suggested that the club need to replace some of our control kites and stakes.
- IP noted that the club will need to invest in new maps, probably done by professional mappers.
- RE noted that for the large events we tend to cost in the price of a new map to the event budget.

Action Points

- CP/ IP to investigate ideas for new radio equipment and discuss at the next events committee.

6. Delegates' Reports

Please refer to the Delegate's Report February 2026 circulated prior to the meeting.

- IP reported that EMOA are still looking for vice-chair.
- SC asked if regional university clubs were going to be allowed to win trophies in the EMOA championships.
- IP noted that EMOA committee had a long discussion on this topic.
- IP reported some of the discussion at EMOA was centered around university students who were new to the sport and were not members of the region.
- CP suggested that this change should have been in consultation with the member clubs.
- IP noted that the vote was not unanimous for local universities to be allowed at EMOA championships.
- RE asked if EMOA had decided a date for a training day.
- IP reported that September was a possible month for a training day, but not actually definite.
- IP suggested the club might need to run a planners and organisers course.

Action Points

- CP to write to EMOA about concerns for EMOA Championships.
- IP & CP to arrange a Level D planners' course.

7. Events Committee Report

Please refer to the Event Committee Report February 2026 circulated prior to the meeting.

- IP reported that British Orienteering are still completing terrain assessments. Will hopefully be done by May.
- IP reported the British Night Championships will likely be at Cademan/ Grace Dieu Woods, the Midland Championships at Wakerley Woods and the Compass Sport Cup final at Martinshaw or Irchester Woods.

- CP reported that a site visit had been completed with the ranger at Wakerley Great Woods.
- IP reported that it's getting harder to find officials from within the club. The way around this has been to use officials from outside the club or host joint events.
- IP noted that the events committee will have to look at planning issues that are cropping up around older competitors.

Action Points

- IP to discuss older competitor issues at the next events committee

8. Development Team Report

Please refer to the Development Team Report February 2026 circulated prior to the meeting.

- RE reported the decline in number of club mappers available for schools mapping and those who are available are elderly. So now is suggesting to schools to look at other commercial mappers.
- CP noted that unknown mappers could have a different quality map to known mappers.
- RE reported that club first aiders listed on the BOF database suggests that the club needs to schedule a first aid course this year or early next year.
- RE reported that we only have two people we use for coaching on club nights and one of those has a lapsed first aid certificate.
- RE noted the issue with formal first aider cover for club night map runs.
- CP suggested that we usually have other first aiders at club night.
- RE noted that are Summer League events are now quite large and are attracting upwards of 70 people on a lot of events. His suggestion was that we should have a duty first aider at download.
- CP noted that the organiser was often first aid trained for level D events.
- RE suggested that novice planners might need more guidance than just a mentor, as there are a lot of requirements to put on an event.
- SE noted that one of the novice planners he was mentoring, did not have a Windows computer to run the Purple Pen software.
- RE reported items from the BOF conference would suggest that we need to do things differently to help newcomers and officials.

Action Point

- RE to schedule a first aid course for members in 2026/ 2027.
- IP to look at best practice for Level D organisers with JDM/ CP.

9. Safeguarding

- SC reported no ongoing safeguarding concerns.
- CP noted that the safeguarding is much more of a focus within the sport and not just with juniors but around older competitors.

10. Club Captain's Report

- DC reported that we had 43 members compete in the regional heat for the Compass Sport Trophy. We came forth out of seven, but unfortunately, we did not qualify for the final.
- DC reported that the Juniors qualified for the Yvette Baker Trophy final, but would probably not be able to field a team in the final due to the Leicestershire School holidays.

- DC reported that we should have a team for the British Sprint Relays.
- RE asked if information about the Peter Palmer Relays had been publicized?
- DC reported that nothing had been circulated to him.
- UW suggested that it will be held on the 13th September 2026 at Tilgate Forest & Park, Crawley.

11. Membership Secretary's Report

Please refer to the Membership Secretary's Report February 2026 circulated prior to the meeting.

- RP reported that we have had two new members join the club. One of them is a friend of club members.

12. Any Other Business

- RP reported that results were now being posted to Bluesky, due to changes on the website.

13. Date of future meetings

- RP suggested Monday 10th August 2026. This was agreed.
- CP suggested the next meeting should really be an in-person meeting.
- UW suggested the venue could be at her house as it was her birthday. This was agreed.

(Post meeting – venue unavailable)

Meeting Closed at 8:47pm

TREASURER'S REPORT MAY 2026

Current account increased to £9,001 after completion of the two level C events at Castle Hill and Aylestone Meadows, and a Gift Aid claim in March. (Gift AID total for the year now more than £4,000)

Total therefore is £18,001 (£9,000 Deposit)

All bills paid and nothing outstanding.

Question, We have money to invest in or buy equipment or kit.
What is possible

Simon Ford
May 2026

DELEGATE'S REPORT MAY 2026

A few things from the EMOA meeting that affect LEI.

- Planner and organiser training may happen in Autumn 2026
- There is still an ongoing call for projects to spend the available development funding.
- There was a long discussion about whether members of closed clubs in the East Midlands OA (e.g. university) would be eligible for East Midlands Championships titles. The minutes will explain the decision.

Everything else will be in the minutes.

Iain Phillips

EVENT COMMITTEE REPORT MAY 2026

Planning for the 2027 event programme is underway with locations and month selected. Dates will depend on negotiations with other EM clubs, which will happen shortly. It will be something like this.

Jan	Beacon Hill
Mar	Boothorpe
May	Bagworth
June	Shepshed
August	Melton
November	???
December	Lawn Wood

For our big events in 2028 the current plans are:

Feb 5-6

Saturday: BNC Cademan

Sunday: Midlands Champs Wakerley (will be remapped, and assembly, we hope, will be Span Hoe airfield).

October 15 (can probably still be changed)

Sunday: CSC/T Finals. Either at Martinshaw or Irchester

We are still short of active event officials for planning and organising. It would be good to get some more interested in the training activities.

Our level D programmes continue well. Chris and I ran level D Organiser/Planner training last year and could do again, if necessary.

Iain Phillips

DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT MAY 2026

1. Schools

1.1 Events

Melton & Belvoir and South Charnwood Partnerships event is to be held on Friday 12th June at Belvoir. The NW Schools event was on Tuesday 24th March 2026, at Whitwick Leisure Centre. Planner was Ian Buxton, this seems to be the best event we have held here. Probably because it was planned rather than set up the last minute!

1.2 County championship

Matt White is floating offering a Leicestershire County School championship mainly to fit with the BSSC at Shipley Park on Sat 10th October. I have replied re the background and some of the issues and how difficult it is to engage schools. However if the School partnerships will promote it could be worth trying out at a weekend in September 2026.

1.3 Mapping services & POC installation

We mapped Brockington College, Enderby and installed a POC. I have just invoiced the second instalment. With a limited range of mappers I'm moving more to using external services. I have contacted the team providers in Merseyside and they are interested.

There are two big national providers of cross-curricula orienteering, ie Cross Curricular Orienteering or Enrich Education. Outdoor Classroom is run by Josh Jenner he has a national presence too.

EMOA discussed schools orienteering at its recent meeting. I think the context was that there is a local provider of schools mapping and they wanted some endorsement. (Guys involved are Rex Bleakman and Jim Jenkinson).

LEI has no monopoly over schools in our area and any provider may approach schools and deliver services without any contact with the club. Schools we have mapped are listed on the LEI website. About once a year one of these schools ask for more POC plaques, otherwise we hear very little.

My intention is to advise any schools enquiring that they can approach any provider but if you want low cost then the small companies are the ones to consider.

2. POC

Some repairs were made to Castle Hill where we have had a report of missing plaques. Simon has Starkey been attempted to work with Forestry staff at **Hicks Lodge**. This was unsuccessful and the Yellow course has deteriorated so much that he removed all the remaining plaques, and the course has been removed from the BOF website. Steve Bones reviewed the **Irchester** courses and I handed him some new plaques at Longshaw. We have more feedback John Pickles about **Burbage Common** course. Mike Dallaway and I repaired two thirds of the area recently but there seem to be more issues. One post is definitely there but you have to look well into the woodland to find the control! We have not reviewed our existing provision to bring sites to a more manageable level. Ben Shannon has been unwell but is recovering and will be contacting Mike to pass on materials.

3. VOC

We need to start getting ready the autumn club nights. Only one new one so far. The VOCs on BOF Go Orienteering, we had have two requests in the last quarter to reactive suspended courses.

4. Club night

We used Markfield Community Centre from Mid January 2026 to Easter. The first week we had two newcomers (Liz came to Castle Hill event and did the start line) plus two club members coming for the first time.

5. Mail chimp

We are still on a free plan. This has some limitations, eg one editor, but it is working. Our members database has regular attacks where about 20 addresses are added each month. I delete these when I notice the subscribers number has jumped up.

6. First Aid

We only had three people (Matt, Karen and Ian B) interested in the course on 9 May. I therefore cancelled giving enough notice to avoid the room charge at Glenfield annex. This clearly leaves us with a slowly declining number of first aiders, as the three years expiry date approaches. We do have a lot with recently renewed certificates. I could try a course again in 2027?

?Expired 2024-25	2026	2027	2028 (early)	2028 (Summer +)
Iain Phillips	Andy Simpson	Roger Phillips	Tracy Edgar	Ursula Williamson
Derek Herd	Matt White	Alastair Paterson	Alan West	Chris Phillips
Steve Chafer			Wendy West	Peter Hornsby
Chris Bosley				Jane Dring-Morris
				Alison Hardy
Ian Buxton				Andy Nicholls
				Mike Dallaway
				Oliver Hague

Activity	Requirements	comment
Level C	2 or 3 needed	
Level D & club night Mapruns	?	we usually have someone at the event but unlikely to be the planner/organiser
Club Night Indoors		we usually have someone at the activity not necessarily the coach

What action should we be taking?

7. Loughborough University

The new “University officer”, Gracie Grant, at BOF along with Ric Gamble are looking at the pathway for freshers fairs and beyond. At Loughborough they would like access to Beacon and the Outwoods map and help with travel to events. I've said we could also supply equipment and support the event run by students as we have done previously. Beacon map is okay but Outwoods is more difficult.

8. Website

We are poor at updating our site for changing practices new forms, etc.

9. Pathways for new officials

Our scheme for mentoring new planners is not fully effective.

Attendance at our Level D events is so high that we ought to adopting a more robust system to ensure new planners deliver quality events. Otherwise there is a risk of putting people off coming to our events. We ensure Quality Level C event by using Controllers why not Level D? The skill level to do Level D is quite high, as one needs to

- Create a timetable to deliver the event on time
- Create a safety risk assessment
- Comply with colour coded standards
- Use Purple pen to design courses and make use of error reports to reduce errors
- Select the correct Control descriptions to describe control sites
- Deploy synchronised controls to the correct location
- Use check lists to ensure courses and their presentation are of the required standard
- Identify map corrections and be able to get map improved or to work round the imitations.

One can't really expect a newcomer to pick all these skills up without significant help. Having all these skills puts the planner in a good place for doing Level C.

10. Recruitment

Some of the BOF Development conference videos tackled events and made suggestions about doing things differently. Suggestions that newcomers would like to run as a pair, so we should change out entry system to advise that you do this by adding a name plus 1. We should offer a newcomer score for those who are unsure about which colour coded course to do, we would just using the existing controls. This means no mispunches and with a time limit runners would not be out for ages. A warm up map with say three controls and back to base before doing a real course. (This would work best for Level D with start and finish together.)

Thoughts? Can we adopt all of them?

As you will have seen in EMEWS, DVO is focussing on Maprun to get new members and NOC carries on with Map Active. I feel we are stretched by our event programme and to ask more from members is a big ask.

Roger Edwards

7th May 2026

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT MAY 2026

Year	Family	Seniors	Young Adults	Juniors	Units	Total
2013	38	53	-	12	103	170
2014	38	61	-	16	115	183
2015	37	56	-	17	110	174
2016	38	60	-	12	110	180
2017	34	61	-	8	103	151
2018		108	-	37		145
2019		103	-	36		139
2020		104	-	26		130
2021		106	-	23		129
2022		105	-	18		122
2023		96	-	16		112
2024		87	5	15		107
2025		95	6	12		113
2026		87	1	10		98

	Membership Categories:	Junior, Young Adult, Senior, Family, Group or Correspondent
Honorary Members	2	
Correspondent Members	3	
New Members	2	
Left The Club	17	