

Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting

Friday 25th March 2016 17:00-19:30

Details: Meeting Room 6, Leeds University Union, Leeds University

Attendees:

Craig Anthony (SELOC), Nick Barrable (SYO), Sarah-Jane Barrable (SLOW), Helen Baxter (LVO), Olivia Baxter (LVO), Patrick Baxter (LVO), Philip Baxter (LVO), Barbara Beckett (HAVOC), Paul Beckett (HAVOC), Robin Bishop (TVOC), Arthur Boyt (KERNO), Steve Brockbank (DFOK), Eric Brown (HOC), Lesley Brown (HOC), Liz Campbell (WAROC), Scott Collier (KERNO), Phil Conway (GO), Philip Craven (DFOK), Leslie Dalglish (ESOC), Margaret Dalglish (ESOC), Bob Dredge (WCH), Carol Dredge (WCH), Sarah Dredge (WCH), Anne Edwards (TVOC), Carol Edwards (TVOC), Mike Elliot (MV), Andrew Evans (DFOK), Mike Forrest (BOK), Mike Frizzell (BADO), Graham Gristwood (FVO), Philip Gristwood (MV), Mike Hamilton (LEI), Peter Hodgkinson (NOC), Yvonne Hodson (TVOC), Judith Holt (DVO), Alan Honey (BOK), Peter Hornsby (LEI), John Hurley (DVO), Chris James (NGOC), Gillian James (NGOC), Alun Jones (TVOC), Jane Lambert (SO), Robert Lines (SO), David Maliphant (LOC), Ian McIntyre (INT), Jane McIntyre (INT), Ed Nicholas (AROS), Keith Parkes (DFOK), Ianka Petrova Evans (POTOC), Jerry Purkis (SAX), Rowan Purkis (SAX), Peter Ribbans (SWOC), Peter Riches (TVOC), Martin Ricketts (TVOC), David Rosen (SROC), Miriam Rosen (SROC), Mark Saunders (BOK), Roger Scrutton (ESOC), Diana Smith (SOC), Terry Smith (SOC), Phil Smithard (KFO), Mark Thompson (TVOC), Tony Thornley (AIRE), Arthur Vince (KERNO), Christine Vince (KERNO), Lesley Ward (SYO), Martin Ward (SYO), Julie Webster (NOC), Mark Webster (NOC), Dorothy Woodall (NOC), John Woodall (NOC), Alan Yeadon (SARUM), Liz Yeadon (SARUM) (73 members)

Minute Taker: Scott Parker

Apologies: Anne Braggins (WAOC), Anne Hickling (GRAMP), Carolyn West (SOS), Derek Alison (LOC), Dorothy Hale (SAX), Ernie Williams (LEI), John Morris (SO), John Morris (SO/ESOC), Lyn Walker (BASOC), Richard Keighley (WIM), Rory Burford (CUOC), Sally Morris (SO), Selwyn Wright (LOC), Steve Round (SELOC), Linda Pakuls (LOG), Amanda Roberts (LOG).

John Disley, CBE

The Chair asked the meeting for a minute's silence to mark the sad passing of our Vice President and founder member, John Disley CBE.

Elisabet Barnes, niece of Jan Kjellstrom

Elisabet, a champion ultra-endurance runner, provided attendees with an inspiring talk about Ultra-Endurance Running and her family including her Uncle Jan, who had played a significant part in the introduction of orienteering into the UK, but who had been tragically killed in a traffic accident. The JK is held in memory of Jan each year. Her talk was followed by a presentation to Elisabet and the cutting of a cake celebrating '50 years of the JK' event.

1. Welcome & Thanks

The Chair, Martin Ward, thanked the organisers of the JK and British Orienteering Staff for the JK and AGM and introduces the top table (Martin Ward - Chair, Judith Holt – Vice Chair, Bob Dredge – Treasurer, Mike Hamilton – Chief Executive).

2. Request for AOB Items

No other items were requested.

3. Minutes of the 34th AGM held on Friday 3rd April 2015

There being no matter or queries raised the minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.
Proposer: Chris James (NGOC) Second: Roger Scrutton (ESOC)

4. Chair's Report

No questions were raised.

5. Treasurer's Report

David Rosen (SROC) pointed out that the report had a breakdown of income but not a clear breakdown of expenditure.

BD stated that the formal accounts are fixed and follow a format that the auditors set, BD also stated that in the last two annual reports he has tried to simplify the breakdown for members but if members are not satisfied with the layout, he will look into alternatives.

Sarah-Jane Barrable (SLOW) pointed out that company accounts can provide director's notes which could be used to address this matter.

Mike Forrest (BOK) added that when he was treasurer, he tried to add a director's note but Grant Thornton's format is quite restrictive and that to add more detail might incur additional auditing fees.

Ian McIntyre (INT) mentioned that the SOA includes a full Profit & Loss statement and that the board should endeavour to provide more transparent costs information.

MH explained that the final accounts and annual report are not published at the same time and are produced in short time frames and under considerable pressure to be ready for the AGM.

6. CEO Report

David Rosen (SROC) requested that the annual report should contain matters British Orienteering volunteers and committees have done and not just the National Office and Staff, there was no mention of the work of Fixtures Scheduling Group or Events & Competitions Committee for instance. He also pointed out that some British Orienteering members deal with the IOF and international orienteering, he felt this work should also be recognised.

7. Proposals

The Chair explained that proposal 3 was being withdrawn as the feedback received by the board prior to the AGM indicated that as drafted it was not acceptable to a significant proportion of the membership, and that further consultation with the membership would be required in helping to solve the financial position British Orienteering finds itself in.

The Chair asked for a show of hands for those in favour of the proposal being withdrawn; the show of hands supported the proposal being withdrawal. The Chair went on to ask for a show of hands in favour of rejecting the withdrawal of the proposal, two members indicated they were against the proposal being withdrawn. On this basis the Chair withdraw the proposal.

Paul Beckett (HAVOC) asked what the procedure is to deal with the matters raised by the proposal.

The Chair explained that it may require an EGM to be called and that a discussion will take place later in the AGM about this process.

8. Proposal 1: Accounts

No questions were raised; the accounts were adopted by a show of hands.

9. Proposal 2: Adoption of Auditors

No questions were raised; the re-appointment of Grant Thornton UK LLP as auditors was adopted by a show of hands.

10. Proposal 3: Membership and Levy Fees (Withdrawn)

The Chair started the discussion by asking the Treasurer to explain the future financial situation.

The Treasurer explained that during 2015 the board had been concerned about certain financial risks and the potential for the outturn to be substantially worse. Fortunately, most risks did not emerge (especially those connected with WOC and Scottish 6-days) and the outturn was better than feared.

The Treasurer reported that he had spoken directly to Sport England and it had been explained to him that funding has changed and general funding (sometimes called 'core' funding, will not be the same. This means that British Orienteering will have to become more self-sufficient and reduce or remove dependency on the Sport England core funding money. The board's ongoing review of strategy has determined that British Orienteering would need around £100,000 extra income per year and that it would need the support of the membership as to how this income is generated. In 2012 when the decision was made to simplify membership (by reducing the cost of National membership but eliminating Local membership) it had been on the basis that membership volumes would grow to become financially sustainable.

Roger Scrutton (SOA President) explained that the Scottish Orienteering Association are against the increase in membership fees stating that in 2012/13, 8 to 12% of their membership was lost due to the change in membership structure and SOA now fears that the same may happen again.

Roger added that Scotland are in the same situation as British Orienteering, in that Sport Scotland has ramped up on governance requirements resulting in the SOA having to appoint a chief operating officer but Sport Scotland will not pay for the position so SOA have to find the salary from within the sport.

SOA have a rolling 4-year budget so they look ahead and see where money can come from, SOA will have to reduce their reserves but by 2020 hope to be financially sustainable. Against this background SOA urge any change in fees to be gradual. Roger asked how much longer orienteering in the UK can continue with performance indicators for British Orienteering being participation focused? Roger expressed that he is happy to invite British Orienteering to talk about the Key Performance Indicators with other home nations.

The Chair thanked Roger for his comments.

Arthur Vince (KENRNO) pointed out that the fees for the running club that he is a member of are considerably higher than those of British Orienteering fees which are peanuts compared to the cost of entering major events.

Roger Scrutton (SOA) responded by saying that the bulk of the membership may only orienteer locally.

Mike Elliot (MV) stated that about 2,500 people are prepared to pay the entry fees for the JK but that means there are about 7,500 members that are not attending the event.

Mike Forrest (BOK) explained that the members in orienteering are volunteers and that it is already a struggle to recruit volunteers without membership fees being increased. As British Orienteering have built up good reserves it means that the board can spend time thinking through any changes even if it means a drop of a quarter of a million pounds in reserves. Mike also expressed the view that BOK are supportive of British Orienteering remaining as an outward looking NGB.

Mike then asked when the EGM might take place as he needs to speak with his club committee to work out how they will deal with membership and levy changes, given that by the autumn the club will need to have set its own 2017 membership fee, and budgets for events in early 2017.

The Chair explained that the EGM may take place in the summer but also has the opportunity of becoming part of the association and club conference in October or possibly at the long and middle British Championships in June. Each date has potential advantages and disadvantages.

Roger Scrutton (SOA) asked if the board would like to engage with other Home Nation chairs. The Chair explained that the board would like to engage with as much of the membership as possible.

Chris James (NGOC) suggested that the board do not spend too long looking at proposals as the vision for the next ten years is more important as the Events and Competitions Committee are under pressure to find future key officials.

Ian McIntyre (INT) added that rushing the budget through is wrong and the board need to look at the strategy and what is required. Ian also stated that he had been unable to find the reserves policy and asked for information about the policy. The Treasurer replied explaining that the reserves policy is on page three of the annual accounts. The Chair added that the board have spent considerable time developing a strategy which is how they came to proposal 3.

Mike Forrest (BOK) expressed the view that it would be preferable to give more time for consultation with the membership although this may mean that clubs and club officials do not receive the outcome until late in the year.

The Chair thanked attendees for the input and summarised the discussion by explaining that the board will take the input into consideration at the next meeting.

11. Elections

Re-election of Sir Chris Bonington as President of British Orienteering had been proposed by the board.

The re-election of the President was unanimous, supported by a show of hands.

The Chair stated that John Woodall has now stepped down after his final one-year term in office and Bob Dredge has completed his three-year term of office although is available for re-election. There being two nominations for the two Elected Director positions, Bob Dredge and Julie Webster were both appointed and no vote is required. The Chair welcomed Julie Webster onto the Board as a newly Elected Director.

The Chair stated that there are also two Independent Director vacancies, John Flook has confirmed that he is available for re-election and advertising has commenced. These vacancies will be filled once an appointment panel has been formed.

12. British Orienteering Awards Ceremony

The Chair announced the awards whilst Craig Anthony presented the trophies and certificates;

Young Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Adam Conway (GO).

University Club of the Year. Received no nominations.

Club of the Year was awarded to Thames Valley Orienteers.

Silva Award Services to Orienteering was awarded to Mark Saunders (BOK)

Peter Palmer Coach of the Year Award was awarded to Liz Campbell (WAROC)

Mapping Awards

The Chichester Trophy was presented to Tony Thornley (AIRE) for Monk's Road.

The Silva Trophy was awarded to Steve Barrett (BASOC) for his maps of Glen Affric and Strathfarrar for the World Orienteering Championships 2015.

The Walsh Trophy was awarded to Graham Gristwood (OD) for Castlandhill.

The Bonington Trophy - it was good to see a number of submissions for this year's Bonington Trophy, awarded annually for the best contribution to mapping. In all cases this reflected considerable input and support to the sport over many years. For 2015 It was awarded to Doug Peel (WCH)

John Woodall was presented with a certificate and an engraved pen thanking him for his many years of service as a board director.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and for their input, he also thanked the JK team for delivering the 2016 JK and wished everyone a successful JK.

The Chair then closed the AGM at 19:30.